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                     IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                       FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
 2
                            NORTHERN DIVISION
     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 3
               Plaintiff,
                                    CRIMINAL CASE NO. RDB-14-0186
 4
          vs.
 5
     RICHARD BYRD,
               Defendant.
 6
 7
                        Thursday, February 9, 2017
 8
                             Courtroom 5D
                          Baltimore, Maryland
 9
10
                      THE HONORABLE RICHARD D. BENNETT, JUDGE
             BEFORE:
11
12
                                 SENTENCING
13
     For the Plaintiff:
14
     James Warwick, Esquire
     Kenneth Clark, Esquire
15
     Assistant United States Attorneys
16
     For the Defendant:
17
     Michael Lawlor, Esquire
     Nicholas Madiou, Esquire
18
19
     Also Present:
20
     Lisa Spinnichio, U.S. Probation Officer
     Damon Gasque, Paralegal, U.S. Attorney's Office
21
22
                                Reported by:
23
                       Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR
                      Federal Official Court Reporter
24
                     101 W. Lombard Street, 4th Floor
                        Baltimore, Maryland 21201
25
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Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR - Federal Official Court Reporter

## 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (3:12 p.m.)THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. 3 This is calling the case of United States versus 4 5 Richard Byrd, Criminal No. RDB-14-0186. The defendant pled 6 guilty before me on November 2nd of last year pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure as 7 to both counts of the second superseding indictment, and we are 8 now here for sentencing. 9 All the members in the back can be seated. Thank you. 10 11 If counsel would identify themselves for the record, 12 please. 13 MR. WARWICK: For the United States, James Warwick and Kenneth Clark. And also at counsel table our paralegal, 14 15 Damon Gasque. 16 THE COURT: Yes. Mr. Warwick, nice to see you. 17 Mr. Clark and Mr. Gasque, nice to see you. Usually you're 18 running the whole computer system for the whole courtroom, so 19 it's nice to see you. 20 And on behalf of the defendant? 21 MR. LAWLOR: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Michael Lawlor and Nicholas Madiou for Mr. Byrd. He's present, 22 Your Honor. 23 24 THE COURT: Good afternoon to you, Mr. Lawlor and Mr. Madiou. 25

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And, Mr. Byrd, good afternoon to you.

The Government may be seated.

We just have a preliminary matter, I think, but we'll see on this. We have a preliminary matter in that there was a pleading filed at 8:17 last night in the evening on the electronic case filing system of this Court, Paper No. 408. It was entitled "Motion to Clarify November 1st, 2016 Hearing Record and Enjoin a Manifestly Unjust Guilty Plea."

And it was filed by Mr. Vandy L. Jamison, Jr., a member of the Bar of this court, who sought to enter his appearance on November 1st, prior to the scheduled trial date of November 7th, with the representation that he would not be prepared to start the case -- to try the case six days later. And I denied his entry and he is not counsel of record in this case, nor is he a party to this case.

But it occurs to me that I need to first verify or discuss or determine if this paper was filed at the behest of Mr. Byrd or if Mr. Byrd adopts this document.

Mr. Lawlor.

MR. LAWLOR: Your Honor, let me have your indulgence in a moment. But initially I will say, obviously I was as surprised, as I'm sure Your Honor was, to see that pleading. I have not heard from Mr. Jamison since we were in court six days before trial the Court -- Your Honor just referenced.

I did ask Mr. Byrd about it today. I saw Mr. Byrd

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yesterday at the jail, just to go over some things and prepare
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     for today's hearing. So there was no mention of Mr. Jamison or
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     another attorney at that time.
 3
              Obviously, I got the pleading after-hours last night,
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 5
     saw Mr. Byrd today. He has not had contact with Mr. Jamison,
     was not aware of the pleading, did not direct its filing.
 6
 7
              THE COURT: And he does not adopt it?
              MR. LAWLOR: With that, Your Honor, your indulgence.
 8
          (The defendant conferred with counsel.)
 9
              MR. LAWLOR: Your Honor, Mr. Byrd indicates to me that
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11
    he does adopt it, although I believe five minutes ago was the
     first time that he saw the pleading. But that's --
12
13
              THE COURT: So he's saying that he adopts the
    pleading?
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15
              MR. LAWLOR: That is the indication he has made.
16
              THE COURT: All right. If you'll please stand,
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    Mr. Byrd.
              You have read this document, apparently you've
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     indicated to your lawyer, for the first time five minutes ago?
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20
              THE DEFENDANT:
                             Yes.
              THE COURT: You have to pull the microphone closer and
21
     speak up, please.
22
23
              And in adopting it, I interpret it as your seeking to
     withdraw your plea of quilty; is that correct?
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25
              THE DEFENDANT: I've been seeking to do that since the
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day I --
 1
                         Why don't you pull the microphone closer
 2
              THE COURT:
     to you and speak up, sir.
 3
              THE DEFENDANT: I've been seeking --
 4
 5
              THE COURT: You don't have to bend over now.
                                                            I can
     hear you. Just keep your voice up.
 6
 7
              THE DEFENDANT: I've been seeking to do that since the
     day I accepted the plea in here, Your Honor.
 8
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. All right. Well, there's been no
 9
     motion filed to withdraw the guilty plea. And what is the --
10
11
     and if you recall, when you pled guilty before me on
     November the 2nd, you were placed under oath.
12
13
              And indeed I specifically asked you, I said,
     "Mr. Byrd, do you understand that you are now under oath and
14
15
     that if you answer any of my questions falsely, your answers
16
     may later be used against you in another prosecution for
17
    perjury or for making false statements?"
              Do you recall my asking you that?
18
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
19
20
              THE COURT: And you said that you understood that, and
21
     you took an oath. And then a detailed statement of facts was
22
    presented as reflected in the plea agreement which you signed,
23
     which was introduced as Government's Exhibit 1 at the time of
     your quilty plea in Paragraph 6A on Pages 5 and 6 of the plea
24
25
     agreement which you signed. And that was introduced as a
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Government exhibit. And you stated under oath that they were
 1
     the correct facts, because I required a factual predicate for
 2
     this Court's acceptance of your quilty plea.
 3
              Do you recall that?
 4
 5
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, I recall us going
     over that document.
 6
              THE COURT: All right. So -- but your position is now
 7
     that you want to withdraw your plea of quilty?
 8
              THE DEFENDANT: My position has been since the day of
 9
     the plea to withdraw my plea. I've communicated this to my
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11
     lawyer on numerous occasions.
              THE COURT: Okay. All right. What is the basis of
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13
     your wanting to withdraw your plea of guilty, an assertion of
     innocence on your part? Is that correct?
14
15
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
16
              THE COURT: All right. Okay. Any other basis for it?
17
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
                          Okay. What is the other basis?
18
              THE COURT:
              THE DEFENDANT: The other basis for withdrawing my
19
20
     will -- the quilty plea is my plea was not made of my own free
21
    will.
22
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. And so I recall also asking if
     anybody had -- in my colloquy under Rule 11 of the Federal
23
    Rules of Criminal Procedure, I specifically asked you as well
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25
     if anyone has actually tried to force you or threaten you to
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plead guilty in this case. And you indicated, "no," no one
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 2
    had.
              And I asked, "Are you pleading quilty on your own
 3
     freely and because you are, in fact, quilty of Count 1 and
 4
 5
     Count 2?"
              And you said "yes," you were.
 6
 7
              Do you recall that?
              THE DEFENDANT: I think -- I think I recall that.
 8
 9
              THE COURT: Okay. And, again, you were under oath.
     But now you've indicated that you felt that someone was
10
11
    pressuring you to plead guilty; is that correct?
              THE DEFENDANT: No, I don't feel.
12
                                                 I know I was.
13
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. All right. Any other basis for
14
     your seeking to withdraw your plea of quilty?
              THE DEFENDANT: I don't understand what you mean,
15
16
     "basis."
17
              THE COURT:
                          I'm sorry?
              THE DEFENDANT: I don't understand, what do you mean
18
19
    by "basis."
20
              THE COURT: I'm just asking: What other basis do you
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     present to the Court to argue that you should be permitted to
22
     withdraw your plea of guilty? You're asserting your innocence
23
     and essentially disputing the statement of facts to which you
     agreed under oath on November the 2nd, and I'm asking if
24
25
     there's any other basis. You've indicated that you were
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pressured into pleading quilty; is that right?
 1
 2
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. That's one of the
     issues.
 3
                         Okay. What other basis is there?
              THE COURT:
 4
 5
              THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, on the day of the plea or
     the day before the plea, Mr. Jamison showed up in court and
 6
 7
     showed up at the holding cell to speak to me. I thought
     Mr. Jamison was going to be able to get on the case.
 8
              Anyhow, Your Honor indicated that I manipulated the
 9
     situation and, therefore, ruled that Mr. Jamison was not going
10
11
     to be able to get on the case.
12
              But --
13
              THE COURT: Well, I think correctly, Mr. Byrd, I
     indicated Mr. Jamison -- given the fact that we had -- that you
14
15
     had your third court-appointed lawyer and that the trial of
16
     this case had been postponed some five times before, that I
17
     asked him if he was going to be able to be ready for trial the
     following Monday, November the 7th. And he said, no, he would
18
19
    not be.
                             Okay. No problem.
20
              THE DEFENDANT:
                                                  I stand corrected.
              THE COURT: The record will reflect that Mr. Jamison
21
    never entered his appearance in this court -- in this case,
22
23
    never has.
              THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. He was never allowed to.
24
25
              THE COURT: He orally sought to come in. And I asked
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him if he was prepared -- given the number of times you'd
 1
     sought a postponement, I asked him if he was prepared and was
 2
     ready to go to trial the following Monday.
 3
              And he indicated, no, he was not, because he was in
 4
 5
     court before me on November the 1st. So that's where we were
 6
     on that.
                              Okay. I don't understand all the
 7
              THE DEFENDANT:
     legal jargon. But if Your Honor would just allow me to finish
 8
     where I'm going, I'd greatly appreciate it.
 9
                          Sure. Go right ahead.
10
              THE COURT:
11
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              I had no phone privilege for some
     time, Your Honor. Your Honor released my phone privileges so I
12
13
     can call the lawyers.
              I was able to start calling lawyers on September 31st.
14
15
     I think Mr. Lawlor contacted the facility after I wrote him and
     let him know that my phone privileges for calling attorneys was
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On sometime September to October, I contacted Mr. C. Justin Brown to try to retain him.

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never back.

Shortly after, I got a letter from -- a letter from Mr. Brown saying that he has a conflict of interest. I was able to get back on the phone around the 14th or the 15th to speak to Mr. Brown about it, his conflict.

At that point I proceeded to try to hire Mr. Jamison.

I made contact with Mr. Jamison. My mother made

preparations to hire him. I made Mr. Lawlor aware of all of the movements I was making. He, himself, tried to contact Mr. Jamison several times. He told me to find out what was the status because I wasn't able to get on the phone to find out what was going on.

The last time I spoke to Mr. Jamison was -- prior to the hearing was when me and him agreed upon him getting with my mother to figure out the retainment.

That was two weeks or a week or so prior to him showing up at court.

I used the same allotted amount of time that Your Honor used to hire counsel here today for me.

THE COURT: Actually, for the record, Mr. Byrd, I don't hire lawyers. The Criminal Justice Act Coordinator does, despite Mr. Jamison's representation here in his pleading that he filed and which we'll deal with in another setting at some other time. I don't hire the lawyers. The lawyer is selected by the Criminal Justice Act Coordinator, as lawyers who are members of the Bar of this court are aware. And Mr. Lawlor is the third lawyer from that panel who was appointed to represent you.

**THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

THE COURT: So, no, I don't hire the lawyer. The court -- the clerk of the court, you know, finds the lawyer who is on the Criminal Justice Act Panel. And then there's an

order entered permitting him to come in, but I didn't pick up the phone. I didn't go hire Mr. Lawlor.

THE DEFENDANT: Well, I took that from when you told me you hired Mr. Solomon, so I was -- I didn't know that you didn't hire them. I don't know the process.

THE COURT: I never said I hired Mr. Solomon,

Mr. Byrd. He was the second of your court-appointed lawyers

who was appointed --

**THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

THE COURT: -- whom you sought to discharge.

THE DEFENDANT: Anyhow, Mr. Jamison showed up here the day after that hearing. On the day of the hearing, I spoke to him, he was supposed to enter his appearance. However that process work, I don't know.

But, anyhow, it turned into a total excoriation of him and me about him, whatever process he didn't take and supposed to do, and me supposedly had -- manipulating the Court's docket.

At that point me and Mr. Lawlor engaged in a lengthy battle back and forth about accepting the plea agreement.

After being pressured and bullied and forced verbally and Mr. Lawlor statin' to me that, Listen, as of today, now I'm your lawyer, because prior to that, I didn't know if you was going to have counsel in; so, therefore, I had one foot in, one foot out, so we're not prepared to go to trial next week. So

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there's no way you going to be able to go to trial and be
 1
    prepared, and this judge is not going to move the calendar.
 2
     And you see the judge's posture, and you see how the judge feel
 3
                 So it's not going to happen.
 4
     about you.
 5
              And a lot of other comments took place during that
     conversation that I don't want to air out in public, but at
 6
 7
     which point I felt severely pressured and bullied to take the
    plea, at which point I agreed. I said, "Okay. Fine."
 8
              THE COURT: All right. Well, thank you very much,
 9
    Mr. Byrd.
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11
              Let me just go over the posture here in terms of
     treating the motion that was filed by Mr. Jamison, a member of
12
     the Bar of this court, whose appearance is not in the case.
13
     didn't list his Bar number here, but he's a licensed lawyer and
14
15
    he's a member of the Bar of this court, and stated certain
     personal attacks upon me, which are of really no moment to me,
16
17
     and personal attacks upon Mr. Lawlor.
18
              I'm treating this -- I received no notice of it until
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     apparently it was filed at 8:17 last night. And I'll treat
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     this -- your adoption of this motion, I'm treating it as a
21
     motion to withdraw your guilty plea. And it will be treated as
     a motion under Rule 11(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal
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23
     Procedure to withdraw your guilty plea.
              Let me just sort of summarize for you, Mr. Byrd, and
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the history of this case so the record is clear.

25

You initially appeared in this court in June of 2014 as to the first indictment. And you were represented by Mr. Kenneth Ravenell, an attorney, privately retained, Mr. Ravenell.

Ultimately, there was an attorney inquiry in the fall of 2014, at which time it was determined you needed court-appointed counsel.

And in October of 2014, there was the entry of the appearance of William Brennan and William Mitchell, as reflected in the file. And by agreement of the parties in January of 2015, there was a trial date scheduled for July 6th of 2015.

There was later an agreement by the parties, at your request of counsel, for extension of the trial date until November 30th, 2015, as reflected by an order in June of 2015.

Then in October of 2015, you expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Brennan and Mr. Mitchell. And there was an attorney inquiry, and you asked that I continue the trial date. And I granted that request in October of 2015, so the trial date was scheduled for April 18th, 2016.

In the interim, the law firm of Perkins Coie was permitted to inquire about representing you. And we conducted a -- we were prepared to conduct a hearing under the case of <a href="United States versus Farmer">United States versus Farmer</a> with respect to your access to certain assets to retain private counsel.

And I accorded those attorneys, Mr. Jean-Jacques Cabou and Alexis Danneman, the courtesy of entering their appearance for the limited purpose of seeking to represent you with the understanding that I would not require them to stay in the case if those assets were not freed for you to be able to retain private counsel.

Ultimately, they withdrew that request, and I permitted them to withdraw from the case.

There was then an attorney inquiry as to Mr. Brennan and Mr. Mitchell, the first of your court-appointed lawyers, because you were not satisfied with their services, so the trial date was then postponed until July of 2016, and David Solomon appeared as the second court-appointed lawyer in the case on April 28th, 2016.

And at that time a new trial date was then scheduled for September of 2016 at your request. In July you -- in July of 2016, you then suggested that you might want to represent yourself. But on July 27th of 2016, you withdrew that request.

There was a motions hearing held in August of 2016 at which there were certain rulings against you in terms of motions filed.

You then filed a request for an attorney inquiry as to David Solomon, indicating your dissatisfaction with Mr. Solomon as the court-appointed lawyer, and a new trial date was scheduled for November the 7th.

Mr. Michael Lawlor was then appointed by the Court of this court to represent you as court-appointed counsel. And over Government objection, I agreed on September 15th to postpone the trial date yet again.

So then Mr. Lawlor appeared as the third court-appointed lawyer for you.

The case was scheduled for trial on November the 7th.

On November the 1st, we had a pretrial conference with no communication, no entry of appearance of any kind at all.

Mr. Jamison arrived here at the court, sat at trial table. And with respect to my inquiry as to whether he was prepared to go forward at trial on November the 7th, he indicated that he was not.

Based upon that, I indicated to him that he could not enter his appearance, and the trial date remained firmly set for November the 7th.

The next day, on November 2nd, 2016, you indicated to the Court that you wanted to plead guilty. And I went through a very thorough Rule 11 colloquy with you, and indeed you were entering your plea under Rule 11(c)(1)(C) with an agreed disposition. And the proceedings proceeded in that fashion, and I placed you under oath and you pled guilty.

There was no indication of any kind from November the 2nd, 2016, when you pled guilty until 8:17 p.m. last night that there was any issue with this case going forward. There

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was no indication by you that you wanted to withdraw your plea
 1
     of guilty. There was no indication by Mr. Jamison --
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              THE DEFENDANT: That's absolutely false, Your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT: Well, there's none that the record
 4
 5
     reflects.
 6
              THE DEFENDANT: You told me specifically not to write
     you or inform you of anything. I wrote my lawyer and informed
 7
    him, and I told him in person of that.
 8
                         Well, all I'm saying --
              THE COURT:
 9
              THE DEFENDANT: He has several and numerous letters
10
11
     from me, certified and uncertified --
              THE COURT: Fine. Mr. --
12
              THE DEFENDANT: -- that I informed him of -- to
13
     withdraw my guilty plea.
14
15
              THE COURT: I hear you, Mr. Byrd.
16
              The Court was not aware of any difficulties --
17
              THE DEFENDANT: Because the Court wished not to be
     aware because the Court told me not to write you about it.
18
              THE COURT: I told you, Mr. Byrd, that over the course
19
     of two years of this case, seeking lawyer after lawyer, that
20
21
     you should not be submitting pro se submissions that might be
22
     detrimental to you when you'd file those and that you were
23
    potentially waiving certain privileges.
              The simple fact of the matter is at 8:17 last night,
24
    Mr. Johnson [sic] then filed what is Paper No. 408, which I'm
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treating as a motion to withdraw your plea of quilty. 1 Rule 11(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 2 specifically provides that a moving defendant must show a fair 3 4 and just reason why a withdrawal of a quilty plea should be 5 allowed, as the Fourth Circuit has noted in United States versus Ubakanma, U-B-A-K-A-N-M-A, 215 F.3d 421, a 6 Fourth Circuit opinion in 2000. 7 The criteria under Fourth Circuit law are 8 well-established with respect to a defendant seeking to 9 10 withdraw a plea of guilty. 11 In United States versus Moore, at 931 F.2d 245, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1991 noted that there are 12 six factors to be considered. 13 One is whether the defendant provides credible 14 15 evidence that a plea of guilty is not knowing or voluntary. 16 Two, whether Defendant credibly asserted his legal 17 innocence. Three, whether there was a delay between entering the 18 19 plea and moving for a withdrawal. 20 Four, whether Defendant had close assistance of 21 competent counsel. Five, whether withdrawal -- whether withdrawal will 22 23 prejudice the Government. And, six, whether or not withdrawal will inconvenience 24 the Court and waste judicial resources. 25

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The Court notes for the record and for purposes of appeal, when you appeal this case, Mr. Byrd, that you have more than played with the docket of this court. The record is abundantly clear on numerous occasions that you have found fault with any lawyer who's appointed for you and then on the eve of trial have sought delay or dilatory tactics.

And that was quite clear before the Court in September when, at the chagrin of the Government, which had scheduled witnesses, just a week or two before the September trial date, I once again allowed the case to be rescheduled for November the 7th. And I granted you the -- for the third time a third court-appointed lawyer.

The United States Court of Appeals for the

Fourth Circuit in <u>United States versus Bowman</u> at 348 F.3d 408,

a Fourth Circuit opinion in 2003, applied those <u>Moore</u> factors

and noted and upheld the denial of a motion to withdraw a plea

of guilty where, most significantly, the defendant claimed to

have essentially lied repeatedly during the Rule 11 colloquy.

And certiorari was denied by the Supreme Court in that case in

540 U.S. 1226 in 2004.

Essentially, what you're representing before the Court now is that under oath you lied; that you didn't acknowledge the very detailed statement of facts that the Court required the Government to proffer in order to accept the plea of guilty.

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The Court further finds that you don't satisfy any of the criteria under <u>United States versus Moore</u> in terms of credible evidence that your plea is not knowing or voluntary. The record is abundantly clear in terms of your trifling with this matter over a period of almost two years and taking any maneuver possible on the eve of trial to continue to delay.

Secondarily, with respect to your credible assertion of your legal innocence, in light of the detailed proffer to support the guilty plea back on November the 2nd and your statement under oath with respect to acknowledging those facts, you have not credibly asserted your legal innocence before the Court today.

In terms of whether there was a delay between entering the plea and moving for withdrawal, this record is abundantly clear with respect to the steps you've taken throughout these entire proceedings, going through no less than three court-appointed lawyers.

Furthermore, in terms of whether or not you've had close assistance of competent counsel, William Brennan and William Mitchell were competent counsel, but I allowed you to discharge them.

David Solomon is competent counsel, but I allowed you to discharge him.

Mr. Michael Lawlor is competent counsel, and he's appeared in front of me numerous times. And now you seek to

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discharge him.
 1
              Sooner or later, this rotation has to stop, Mr. Byrd.
 2
              And in terms of the fifth criterion, whether
 3
     withdrawal will prejudice the Government, it goes without
 4
 5
     saying that the Government, on numerous occasions, has been
     ready for trial and on numerous occasions you have played this
 6
 7
     maneuver.
              And, finally, whether withdrawal will inconvenience
 8
     the Court and waste judicial resources, I cannot imagine a more
 9
     clear case of a defendant who is seeking to inconvenience the
10
11
     Court and waste judicial resources.
              So for those reasons set forth on the record,
12
13
     Paper No. 408, filed by Lawyer Vandy Jamison, is treated as
     your motion adopted by you here today to withdraw your plea of
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15
     guilty. And it is denied for the reasons indicated on the
16
     record.
17
              And with that, we will proceed to sentencing in this
18
     case.
              THE DEFENDANT: Why don't you tell the judge why I
19
20
     took the quilty plea.
21
              THE COURT: All right. That -- I've already ruled,
22
     Mr. Lawlor. You can talk to your client, if you want.
          (The defendant conferred with counsel.)
23
              MR. LAWLOR: Your Honor, can the Government and I
24
25
     approach?
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I'm not sure about that, Mr. Lawlor.
 1
              THE COURT:
                          No.
     I'm not going to have to have a sealed proceeding here. He's
 2
     got to have a headset get down -- for him and we need to
 3
     discuss it --
 4
 5
              MR. LAWLOR: I think it's important for the record,
     Your Honor. I think it's a matter that should be under seal.
 6
 7
              THE COURT: That's fine. We can put it under seal.
     But I'm not going to have you come up until we give him a
 8
     headset.
 9
10
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, of course.
11
              THE COURT: Mr. Byrd, you're going to have a headset
     here, and there's going to be a discussion up here at the
12
     bench, and you'll be able to hear it. And I'll have you
13
     confirm that you can hear it before I take the discussion at
14
15
     the bench.
16
          (Bench conference mode activated.)
17
              THE COURT: Can you hear me, Mr. Byrd?
18
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              (Nods head.)
              THE COURT: With that, the record reflect that
19
20
     Mr. Byrd said he could hear me.
21
              Mr. Byrd, you'll sit down now, please, sir.
              Counsel will approach the bench. This matter will be
22
     under seal.
23
          (Sealed bench conference.)
24
              THE COURT: All right. That discussion was held under
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seal, and it does not in any way affect the Court's ruling and 1 the failure of the defendant to satisfy the factors under the 2 Moore case and the motion to withdraw the quilty plea. 3 Essentially it's treated -- it's a verbal motion today, treated 4 5 as a motion to withdraw the guilty plea in terms of verbally adopting the submission of Mr. Jamison, Paper No. 408, which as 6 7 I've said, according to the court records, was filed at 8:17 p.m. last night, last evening. 8 And so with that, we are ready to proceed with 9 sentencing in this case. 10 11 If you'll please stand, Mr. Byrd. You pled guilty before me under Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of 12 the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with an agreed sentence 13 with the Government, specifically a sentence of 26 years or 14 15 312 months on Count 1, conspiracy to distribute and possess 16 with the intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, and 17 10 years or 120 months on the money-laundering charge in 18 Count 2, 18 United States Code, Section 1956(h), for a total 19 sentence of 26 years or 312 months, which you will definitely

I indicated to you at that time that after I reviewed the presentence report prepared by Ms. Lisa Spinnichio, the U.S. Probation Officer, who's here in court -- good afternoon,

get credit for time served in federal custody since April of

and a half years already on that sentence.

2014 for that. So you've already served some -- well over two

20

21

22

23

24

25

```
Ms. Spinnichio.
 1
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
 2
              THE COURT: I didn't get a chance to say hi to you.
 3
     Thank you for your report.
 4
 5
              I indicated to you at that time on November the 2nd,
     Mr. Byrd, that if I was inclined to sentence you to one day
 6
 7
     more than that, you would be permitted to withdraw your plea of
     quilty.
 8
              And pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), if I was inclined to
 9
     sentence you to one day less than that, then the Government
10
11
     would be permitted to withdraw your plea of guilty. And that
     was to the two-count, second superseding indictment, Counts 1
12
     and 2.
13
              Correct, Mr. Warwick?
14
              MR. WARWICK: That is correct, Your Honor.
15
16
              THE COURT: Correct, Mr. Lawlor?
17
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.
18
              THE COURT: And I have reviewed Ms. Spinnichio's
     presentence report, and there won't be any surprises here
19
20
             That will be the sentence.
              But we have a lot of housekeeping to do here,
21
     including Mr. Lawlor's objection to one portion of the
22
23
     presentence report that would change the guideline, the
     Advisory Guideline calculation.
24
25
              So with that, we are ready to proceed with this
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plea -- with this sentencing in terms of the basis for the
 1
     Court sentencing you to a total of 312 months, or 26 years in
 2
     federal prison.
 3
              Now, Mr. Byrd, have you reviewed the presentence
 4
 5
     report in this case with Mr. Lawlor?
 6
              THE DEFENDANT: There were some changes supposed to be
 7
    made.
           I haven't seen those yet.
              THE COURT: Yes. I'm going over that with you now.
 8
 9
    But you've reviewed that with him?
10
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
11
              THE COURT: All right. Now, the changes -- first of
     all, the defendant objected to the presentence report,
12
     Paper No. 307. And I would note of the two matters raised
13
     there, one of them is now moot, I believe, Mr. Lawlor.
14
15
     contended that there were two points incorrectly added to the
16
     defendant's criminal history score, and I believe that
17
     correction has now been made; correct?
18
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.
19
              THE COURT:
                         Correct, Ms. Spinnichio?
20
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.
21
                          Okay. And then you noted that --
              THE COURT:
22
    Mr. Lawlor, you also noted Mr. Byrd's objection to a two-level
23
     upward adjustment based on obstruction of justice under
     Section 3C1.1 of the Advisory Guidelines based upon alleged
24
25
     efforts by Mr. Byrd to contact the co-defendant, James Bowie.
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That is a guideline issue that we will be addressing shortly in
 1
     terms of that issue, although I'm not certain the Government is
 2
     opposing that, but we'll get to that in a moment.
 3
              And, also, I note that there are certain other
 4
 5
     corrections or objections we'll be going over in a second in
     terms of additions here that were submitted in Paper No. 407.
 6
 7
              MR. LAWLOR: Those are more cosmetic, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: I'm sorry?
 8
 9
              MR. LAWLOR: Those are more cosmetic.
              THE COURT: Well, one of them is not cosmetic, and I
10
11
     want to go over it in a second.
              Mr. Warwick, does the Government have any objections
12
13
     or corrections to the report?
              MR. WARWICK: No, Your Honor.
14
              THE COURT: All right. As to the defense objections,
15
16
     we're going to be addressing the matter of the obstruction of
17
     justice as to -- with respect to other objections or
18
     corrections noted in Paper No. 407 by the defense counsel.
              Paragraph 35, the presentence report lists a
19
20
     conviction that Mr. Byrd denies obtaining. And then your
21
     review of the Maryland Case Search did not reveal any such
22
     case.
23
              Has that correction been made, Mr. Lawlor?
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor. I talked to the PSR
24
25
     author today. She indicated that she has paperwork indicating
```

that Mr. Byrd did obtain that conviction under a different name. So I -- as I said, my research didn't show any such conviction by Mr. Byrd. He denied to me that he received such a conviction.

With that, Your Honor, I'd leave it to Your Honor or

THE COURT: All right. Well, it doesn't affect the guideline -- it was an assault in the second degree with probation before judgment in the state system, according to Paragraph 35.

Correct, Mr. Lawlor?

the probation author.

MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And even if that criminal history point of one is not added, it doesn't affect -- it does not appear. It does not affect the criminal history calculation with the Advisory Guideline.

MR. LAWLOR: No; because he would still have four points, which would still render him a Category III.

THE COURT: Right. Mr. Warwick, I don't see any reason for the record to be muddled on this issue. I mean, the defendant contends that that's not accurate. It was a probation before judgment, which has the legal status at some point in time of sometime being erased if someone complies. There is an assertion that it was the same individual, but it really has no significance in terms of what's happening here

```
today.
 1
              MR. WARWICK: None whatsoever.
 2
              THE COURT: All right. I'm just going to treat it as
 3
            I'll sustain that objection by the defense.
 4
 5
              And, Ms. Spinnichio, that will be classified as a zero
 6
     there; okay?
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.
 7
              THE COURT: I'm not going to add a criminal history
 8
     point for that. So his criminal history points will be four
 9
10
     and not five in Paragraph 36, but that doesn't change the
11
     guideline calculation.
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: But should it remain in the
12
13
     report?
              THE COURT: It need not even remain in the report.
14
                                                                   Ιt
15
     can be deleted.
16
              THE PROBATION OFFICER:
                                      Okay.
                          That's assault in the second degree and
17
              THE COURT:
18
     PBJ, probation before judgment. It can be deleted from the
19
              So that matter has been dealt with, Mr. Lawlor.
20
              We'll get back to Number 2 in terms of the birthplace
21
     of the defendant, whether it's Brooklyn, New York, or Jamaica.
22
              But as to Paragraph 55 in the presentence report,
23
     there is some reference, I think you said, to -- you objected
     to the -- Mr. Byrd's mother being suggested as a co-defendant.
24
25
     I don't know whether these paragraphs have been renumbered or
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not, but I don't -- where is there reference to his mother
 1
 2
    being a co-defendant?
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Your Honor, it's Paragraph 55,
 3
     and I believe what it should say is "the co-defendant in a
 4
 5
     related case."
              THE COURT: All right. I'm looking at paragraph --
 6
     which date of the presentence report are you referring to,
 7
     January the 11th?
 8
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: No. I might have the wrong
 9
     copy too, Your Honor.
10
11
              THE COURT: I'm looking at the most recent one as
     January the 11th of 2017, Ms. Spinnichio.
12
13
              MR. WARWICK: It should be Paragraph 53, then, Judge.
              THE COURT: Paragraph 53. The defendant's cousin,
14
15
     Jerome Castle, is also a co-defendant. That will be -- clearly
16
     the defendant's mother is not a co-defendant in this case, and
17
     that will be deleted, Ms. Spinnichio.
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor. But I
18
    believe she was in a related case, a case related to this case.
19
20
              THE COURT: Is she a co-defendant in this case or not,
21
    Mr. Warwick?
22
              MR. WARWICK: No, she is not.
23
              THE COURT: Good. Then I don't want any reference to
    her being a co-defendant, Ms. Spinnichio.
24
25
              THE PROBATION OFFICER:
                                      Okay. Okay.
```

```
So that will be granted as well,
 1
              THE COURT:
 2
    Mr. Lawlor.
              MR. LAWLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT: And then amending Paragraph 61, again, in
 4
 5
     terms of the Part C, the defendant characteristics, Mr. Byrd
    notes the following members of his family. And then there's a
 6
 7
     list of names: Stacie Stewart, Najah Stewart, Andrea King,
     Jamila Lynn, Yvonne Taylor, Lavonte King, Ashley Channing,
 8
    Anita Bush, Patrice Fulcott, Junior Saunders, Wayne Chang. All
 9
10
     of those should be added as members of his family at the
11
     request of the defendant, Ms. Spinnichio.
12
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.
13
              THE COURT: And they will be added pursuant to your
     request, Mr. Lawlor.
14
15
              MR. LAWLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
16
              Your Honor, without belaboring the point, may I give a
17
     couple additional names to the PSR author?
                          Absolutely. Go right ahead. Go right
18
              THE COURT:
19
     ahead.
20
              MR. LAWLOR: I'll do it now. Terrence Peters is one.
21
     Clayanna Warthen, W-A-R-T-H-E-N. And Safiya, S-A --
     S-A-F-I-Y-A, Lyn, L-Y-N.
22
23
              Thank you, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Did you get all those, Ms. Spinnichio?
24
25
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: No, Your Honor.
```

```
I don't think she got them.
 1
              THE COURT:
 2
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: I'll get them after.
              THE COURT: You'll just meet with her afterwards,
 3
    Mr. Lawlor, make sure she gets all of those.
 4
 5
              Then there is material in Paragraph 62 and 64 with
     respect to medication he's taking and also the matter of
 6
 7
     sleep apnea. And your request is that that be added?
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.
 8
              THE COURT: And that will be added, Ms. Spinnichio.
 9
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.
10
11
              THE COURT: And then, finally, before we -- we'll have
     two matters left to deal with in a moment here.
12
13
              In terms of employment record, which is actually at
     Paragraph 69, it says the defendant did not provide employment
14
     information. And you have noted that Mr. Byrd has been
15
16
     self-employed in the promotion industry for 20 years.
17
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.
              THE COURT:
                          I think that issue came up previously when
18
19
     counsel from Perkins Coie were seeking to show an independent
20
     source of income in terms of my consideration of whether or not
21
     they could come into the case and there were individual assets.
              And Perkins -- for the record, Perkins Coie withdrew
22
23
     from the hearing under United States versus Farmer and did not
     want to try to come forward and meet that burden to show
24
     independent source of income. But we can certainly list
25
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Mr. Byrd's contention that he has been self-employed in the promotion industry for 20 years, Ms. Spinnichio.

THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And that will be granted as well,

Mr. Lawlor.

MR. LAWLOR: Thank you.

THE COURT: So I think that where we are is the only disputed matters as to the presentence report are the matter of a two-level adjustment under Paragraph 25 of the presentence report for alleged obstruction of justice under Section 3C1.1 of the Advisory Guidelines.

And then, secondarily, with respect to the presentence report reflecting that Mr. Byrd is -- has an ICE detainer lodged against him and that he was born in Jamaica and that he entered this country on a visa in April of 1986, and the presentence report reflects that there is an outstanding order of deportation as to him.

Mr. Byrd, as you have indicated, contends that he is not a United States -- that he is a United States citizen and indicates that he was born in Brooklyn, New York.

We'll deal with this issue in a moment in terms of any disputed matters that the Court must address under Guideline Section 6A1.3 and Rule 32(i) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. They will be the two matters I will address that are disputed.

```
Are there any other disputed matters that we need to
 1
     address in a few minutes from your point of view, Mr. Warwick?
 2
              MR. WARWICK: I don't believe so, Your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT:
                         In terms of the quideline calculation,
 4
 5
     Mr. Lawlor, anything from your point of view?
 6
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor.
 7
              THE COURT:
                          Just so the record is clear, this is a
     Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea with an agreed disposition and an
 8
     agreement by the Government and the defendant. But we still
 9
     must calculate the accurate Advisory Guideline range under
10
     Fourth Circuit case law.
11
              So with that, we are ready to proceed.
12
              Let me just go over the process here for you,
13
     Mr. Byrd, that I indicated to you on November the 2nd, five
14
15
     days before your scheduled trial date in November when you pled
16
     quilty.
17
              There are two key Supreme Court opinions that govern
     the Court with respect to sentencing here in this matter.
18
              In the case of United States versus Booker, in January
19
20
     of 2005, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the
21
     Constitutionality of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, but it
     did so with the deletion of two particular sections of the
22
23
     guidelines which had previously rendered the guidelines
     mandatory.
24
25
              In the Booker case in 2005, now over 12 years ago, the
```

Court held that with the deletion of those two sections, the balance of the guidelines was Constitutional. And the Court recognized that as a result of its opinion, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines were to be applied in an advisory context and the guidelines had been rendered effectively advisory.

So there's nothing mandatory about the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. They are advisory only.

And under the approach adopted by the Supreme Court in the <u>Booker</u> case, federal judges, while not bound to apply the guidelines, must still consult them and take them into account when imposing a sentence, subject to review by Courts of Appeals for unreasonableness.

And the particular section there, Section 3553 of
Title 18 of the United States Code, is a factor that the Court
considers as well when imposing a sentence. And it has, in
fact, been referenced by Mr. Lawlor in his submission to the
Court on your behalf, Paper No. 403.

And then I said there are two key Supreme Court opinions. In the second of the two key Supreme Court opinions, in the case of <u>Gall versus the United States</u> decided in December of 2007, the Supreme Court specifically noted that federal judges should not presume that the guideline range is reasonable. But it is a starting point in a multistep process, pursuant to which, first, there's a calculation of the guideline range, which we're going to be doing in a moment; and

```
then there's a consideration of other factors apart from the
 1
     guidelines, the goal being to impose a sentence which is
 2
     sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the goals
 3
     of sentencing. And if the sentence is outside of the quideline
 4
 5
     range, the Court should indicate its reasons for doing so.
 6
              That's the analysis I undertook early in terms of
 7
     determining that since you pled guilty on November the 2nd, in
     the interim determining that a 26-year total sentence is
 8
     appropriate in this case -- and it indeed actually works out to
 9
10
     be within the Advisory Guideline range, but that's not the
11
     reason for my holding. I think it's a fair and appropriate
     sentence, but that's the analysis I undertook.
12
13
              Now, I note that in Paragraph 64 of the presentence
     report, you've indicated that you are taking some medication,
14
15
     specifically Celexa and Prozac.
16
              Did you take any medication today, Mr. Byrd?
17
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
              THE COURT: All right. And when is the last time you
18
19
     took any medication, sir?
20
              THE DEFENDANT: Bedtime last night.
21
              THE COURT: Bedtime last night.
22
              Is that causing any negative effect upon you here this
     afternoon?
23
                                   I'm fine.
24
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
25
              THE COURT:
                          I'm sorry?
```

THE DEFENDANT: I'm fine.

THE COURT: All right. And are you satisfied your client is competent to proceed with sentencing here,
Mr. Lawlor?

MR. LAWLOR: Yes, I am.

THE COURT: Let me go over the other housekeeping matter for you, Mr. Byrd.

They are the procedures required by the PROTECT Act of 2003, which is a law that was passed by the U.S. Congress in that year. And among the many provisions of that act, there are also provisions with respect to federal courts when imposing sentences in federal criminal cases.

The PROTECT Act specifically requires that the Chief Judge of each Federal Court in the United States ensure that within 30 days of the imposition of sentence, that certain documents go over to the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington.

Those documents include the judgment and commitment order, which I'll be preparing with the assistance of Ms. Tyson, the Deputy Clerk of Court; the statement of reasons for the sentence imposed, which shall include the reason for any departures from the otherwise applicable guideline range; any plea agreement in the case; the indictment, in this case the second superseding indictment; the presentence report, and any other information the Sentencing Commission finds

appropriate.

And the Chief Judge of this court issued an administrative order back in 2003 directing Ms. Spinnichio's office, the U.S. Probation Office, to submit these documents to the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington over the next 30 days.

That means, Mr. Byrd, that some of these documents are subject to review by other public officials or by members of the public, perhaps. And in light of the fact, for a long period of time in this court, the section marked "Defendant Characteristics," which contains confidential family information, has been sealed, for a long period of time this court, certainly going back as far as 2004, pursuant to an administrative order that was revised by standing order in 2015, pursuant to which Part C of the presentence report, containing confidential family information, is sealed.

In your case your presentence report, Part C, begins in Paragraph 52, Page 13, and goes over to Paragraph 70, Page 15. And the standard sealing order will apply there. I have reviewed the confidential family information. Another judge of this court could do so as well if they so desired. They have not, but they could if they wanted to.

And then members of the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington can review that material, but no one else is allowed to see it. The President, members of the Senate and House of

Representatives cannot look at it without further order by me. 1 Do you understand that? 2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: All right. And I'm not going to --4 5 there's no reason it will be unsealed. To all other extent, the requirements of the PROTECT Act are still complied -- are 6 still required to be complied with. 7 Now, I said that the first step in the guideline 8 calculation is the determination of the total offense level. 9 10 That is reflected on Pages 7 and 8 of your presentence report. 11 There is a base offense level of 36. There is a four-level upward adjustment because you were an organizer or 12 leader of the criminal activity that involved five or more 13 participants. That comes to a total offense level of 40 14 15 initially. There is a two-level adjustment for obstruction of 16 17 justice in Paragraph 25 -- and that's an issue you're 18 disputing, and I'll address it in a moment -- which would take 19 it to a 42. Then you're being given a two-level downward 20 adjustment for your acceptance of responsibility, for a total 21 offense level of 40. Your criminal history is summarized in page -- from 22 23 Pages 8 to 10, noting a handgun charge when you were 17 years of age in 1992, a drug charge in 1993, another drug charge in 24 25 The assault in the second degree charge was stricken by 1998.

the Court based upon your representation that it was not you.

There's a total criminal history points of four as reflected in Paragraph 36, with a criminal history category of III. I have looked -- I have seen Pages 10, 11, and half of Page 12 as to other alleged criminal conduct. I'm not considering that in any way in accepting the (C) plea with respect to an agreed sentence of 26 years, so they're not a factor in my decision in that regard.

So as I've said, there is a requirement for me to determine certain disputed matters, if there are any, under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Section 6A1.3 of the Advisory Guidelines.

The first disputed matter relates to Paragraph 25 as to an addition, a two-level upward adjustment for obstruction of justice on that.

Let me just ask the Government, if I can, Mr. Warwick, I know that you've made reference to my rulings at the motions hearing in August of 2016, particularly with respect to any evidence as to Mr. Byrd's interactions or his effort at interactions with Mr. James Bowie, a co-defendant in this case.

But in light of the fact that this is a (C) plea under Rule 11(c)(1)(C), looking at the statement of facts that provided the predicate for this Court's acceptance of that (C) plea, I don't know that there's any reference to the matter of the interaction with James Bowie. And I'm not sure if it's

of any great moment here in terms of this Court's determination to just abide by the (C) plea.

So I'd be glad to hear from the Government before I hear from Mr. Lawlor on this.

You may be seated, Mr. Byrd. Thank you.

MR. WARWICK: As a practical matter, the Court can either just ignore it or discount it and just proceed with the (C) plea. Or if the Court wants amplification, I can do that in a minute.

THE COURT: I don't think you need to. I'm not comfortable with that adjustment. I'm not criticizing

Ms. Spinnichio.

But in light of the fact that this is a (C) plea -and as I've earlier noted, Mr. Byrd under oath acknowledged the
facts that were the factual predicate for that (C) plea -- I
don't know that that factual predicate included the information
as to Mr. Bowie. And I'm inclined, in the abundance of
caution, to strike that so that that two-level upward
adjustment will not be provided.

And Ms. Spinnichio, if you'll delete that obstruction of justice adjustment.

THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And so that will be sustained. The objection will be sustained. That results in a total offense level of 38, criminal history category of III, an Advisory

Guideline range of 292 to 365 months in prison.

Indeed, the agreed sentence of 312 months, or 26 years, falls in that range, actually to the low end of that range. But that is the Advisory Guideline range at this point.

And then the second disputed matter I need to address, that is the matter of the defendant's contention that he was born in Brooklyn, New York, and the position of the Immigration & Customs Enforcement, apparently, that he was born in Jamaica and that there is a detainer lodged against him.

From the point of view of the Government and from the defense -- I'll hear from the Government first on this. I'm not really inclined to deal with this one way or the other.

The defendant is free to deal with this as an immigration matter at some point in time.

Yes, Mr. Warwick?

MR. WARWICK: Yes. He's allowed to do that. Just clarifying for the record, Mr. Byrd was born in Jamaica. What we did, specifically in anticipation of this issue, when somebody comes into the U.S. who is a noncitizen, they are given an alien number and they are fingerprinted.

So we got the alien or A file from the Department of Homeland Security. And we had the prints in that file for Mr. Byrd when he was a teenager, compared with two arrests.

One was a Baltimore County arrest September of 1992, as well as the U.S. Marshals arrest in this case, and it's one and the

```
1
     same person.
 2
              THE COURT: All right.
              MR. WARWICK: So I just wanted --
 3
              THE COURT: You can introduce that as an item -- that
 4
 5
     will be Government's Exhibit 1 on this question.
              MR. WARWICK: Yes, Your Honor. And I just didn't want
 6
 7
     the probation report --
              THE COURT:
                          I understand.
 8
              Mr. Lawlor, do you want to be heard on this?
 9
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor.
10
11
              THE COURT:
                          Mr. Byrd is free to contend that he was
    born in Brooklyn, New York. And to the extent that there is
12
13
     any effort to deport him at the end of his prison sentence,
     he's -- I'm not going to conduct an inquiry here on that. I
14
15
    mean, this presentence report you've objected. You've noted
16
     your objection to reference to his being born in Jamaica.
    Government has offered a document in support of it.
17
              You're free to offer whatever you want. Or Mr. Byrd
18
     is free to contend he was born in Brooklyn, New York. And it
19
     doesn't really -- it's not going to affect the sentence imposed
20
           It's a matter to be dealt with by immigration officials
21
     fairly far down the road, as far as I can see.
22
23
              Is there anything else you want to add on this?
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor.
24
                          All right. And I'm looking here at the
25
              THE COURT:
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```
Government's Exhibit 1 on this question. And I'm not making a
 1
     finding one way or the other on it, and I don't need to.
 2
              Madam Clerk, thank you very much.
 3
              And the evidence is what it is, and the presentence
 4
 5
     report stays as is on that matter. But it does not mean that
 6
     the defendant is not free to contend it at a later point in
 7
     time when he's being released from prison with respect to
     immigration officials.
 8
 9
              But the presentence report states and the Government
     has offered evidence to support the fact that apparently there
10
11
     is an immigration detainer on Mr. Byrd that still exists.
              So with that, there are no other disputed matters that
12
     I know of to address, and I'll now give the Assistant
13
     U.S. Attorney an opportunity to speak on behalf of the
14
15
     Government.
              And then, Mr. Lawlor, you'll be recognized for
16
     remarks.
17
18
              And then, Mr. Byrd, you'll be given an opportunity to
19
     speak on your own behalf.
20
              So with that, Mr. Warwick, I'll be glad to hear from
21
     you.
22
                            Thank you, Your Honor.
              MR. WARWICK:
23
              This case has had a long and torturous history.
     a very serious matter. It's one of the largest drug
24
25
     organizations I have been involved with in terms of
```

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investigating and prosecuting.

We've had the support of law enforcement in Maryland, in Texas, in Arizona, and elsewhere. And putting this case together was a significant effort, but it was worth it because of the complexity and magnitude of the drug operation and the organization maintained by Mr. Byrd.

The agreed -- the stipulated sentence -- and I ask the Court to agree by the -- agree with counsel and adopt our request. I think a sentence of 26 years is sufficient, and hopefully that will be followed by deportation, and that sentence to run concurrent with the ten years on the money-laundering count.

If the Court has any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

THE COURT: No. That's fine. Thank you.

The statement of facts, which was set forth in Pages 5 and 6 of the plea agreement, as to which Mr. Byrd acknowledged under oath before me on November the 2nd, I think is self-explanatory in terms of the depth of this organization and the implications of it.

With that, I'll be glad to recognize you, Mr. Lawlor.

As I've said, I'll certainly abide by the plea agreement that

your client reached with the Government on November 2nd, but

I'll be glad to hear from you if you want to add anything.

MR. LAWLOR: I do not, Your Honor. Understanding that

this is an agreed-upon sentence, I'd just ask the Court to 1 consider the comments we made in the letter dated January 23rd. 2 And certainly I intend to address THE COURT: Yes. 3 his concern over posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as his 4 5 desire for mental health treatment. And I will certainly do that. And certainly Mr. Byrd is going to get credit for all 6 time served in federal custody since his arrest by authorities 7 in Arizona back on April 29th, 2014. 8 So he has already served, as I've said, some two and a 9 half years, going on almost three years of the sentence. 10 And 11 you're getting full credit for that, Mr. Byrd. All the time you spent thus far is being credited against your sentence. 12 So with that, if you'll please stand. I personally 13 address you and determine if you wish to make a statement and 14 15 give you the opportunity to speak on your own behalf. 16 Would you like to make a statement, sir? 17 **THE DEFENDANT:** Statement I already made -- I pretty much already made, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: All right. That's fine. Thank you very 19 much. 20 The Court has conducted the analysis under the Booker 21 and Gall cases, as I -- remain standing, please, sir. 22 23 The Court has conducted the analysis under the Booker and Gall cases, as I've previously outlined. And the sentence 24 25 imposed should achieve the four Congressionally mandated

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purposes of sentencing -- that is, to punish the defendant, to deter the defendant and others from criminal conduct, to incapacitate the defendant and protect the public, and to rehabilitate the defendant.

These steps were outlined by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in <u>United States versus Raby</u>, R-A-B-Y, at 575 F.3d 376, a Fourth Circuit opinion in 2009.

To achieve these four purposes, I have looked at the seven factors under 18 United States Code, Section 3553(a), and specifically the nature and circumstances of the offense in this case and the conduct of the defendant, specifically.

I have also looked at the guideline range here with respect to the guideline range, which it turns out is exactly in the range of the agreed (C) plea sentence here.

And I have certainly noted not only the nature and circumstances of the offense, but the history and characteristics of this defendant. And indeed the Court has applied those factors.

And I'm very much aware of the early issue that we addressed here about alternative sources of income, which ultimately the lawyers were not able to establish in terms of in the auspices of the case of <u>United States versus Farmer</u> in terms of the fact that you have clearly financed a significant drug operation for a long period of time.

And I've considered not only the nature and

circumstances of this offense and the characteristics of the defendant, but also, under 3553(a)(6), the sentences imposed upon similarly situated individuals, in considering the propriety of a total sentence of 26 years.

So I find that it's sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the goals of sentencing under both the factors under 3553(a), as well as under the Advisory Guideline calculation.

(It is the policy of this court that every guilty plea and sentencing proceeding include a bench conference concerning whether the defendant is or is not cooperating.)

THE COURT: It is ordered that the defendant,
Richard Byrd, be remanded to the custody of the Bureau of
Prisons for a period of 312 months on Count 1 and 120 months on
Count 2, concurrent to Count 1, for a total sentence of
312 months, with credit for time served in federal custody
since April 29th, 2014.

I'm going to recommend that he receive psychological counseling and mental health treatment while he's incarcerated.

I'm going to recommend that he participate in any drug abuse program for which he may be eligible.

I'm also going to recommend that he receive some vocational training while he's incarcerated, because the only indication of employment is his assertion that he's been in the promotion business. He doesn't have any employment other than

his suggestion as to that, and that fell deficient earlier in these proceedings when Perkins Coie was trying to perhaps enter their appearance in this case.

Mr. Byrd is before this Court facing sentencing for being the leader of a large drug-trafficking enterprise and amassed quite a significant amount of money from this participation. And I've already entered certain forfeiture orders consistent with the plea agreement in this case.

But I do think that the sentence at the lower end of the Advisory Guideline range -- that's 312 months total -- is an appropriate sentence.

I'm going to place you on supervised release,
Mr. Byrd, upon your release from prison, for a period of
ten years as to Count 1 and three years as to Count 2,
concurrent to Count 1, for a total term of supervised release
of ten years.

The mandatory and standard conditions of supervision adopted by the Court shall apply and the following additional conditions:

That you shall satisfactorily participate in a treatment program approved by the probation officer relating to substance and/or alcohol abuse, which may include evaluation, counseling, and testing as deemed necessary by the probation officer.

Secondly, that you shall satisfactorily participate in

a mental health treatment program approved by the probation officer, which may include evaluation, counseling, and testing as deemed necessary.

Third, that you shall provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information.

Fourth, that you shall not have any contact with any victim or witness in the instant offense by any means, including in person, by mail, by telephone, or via any device or Internet or any other social media device in terms of trying to contact any witnesses who you believe were involved in this case.

And, fifth, you shall cooperate in the collection of any DNA as directed by the probation officer if it were deemed necessary.

And they are conditions of supervised release when you're released after your prison term.

I am not going to impose a fine in this case. You've already had a very substantial forfeiture order and money judgment entered against you, consistent with Paragraph 9 of the plea agreement, which was introduced as Government's Exhibit 1 at the time you pled guilty on November the 2nd, so no fine will be assessed.

There is a special assessment of \$100 per count as to the second superseding indictment, so there's a \$200 mandatory special assessment. That will just be listed as being paid

immediately. But, in fact, it will just be deducted from your prison wages.

In Paragraph 16 of the plea agreement, you and the Government waived any appeal of the sentence in this case by the agreed sentence under Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of 312 months. And that's the sentence that has, in fact, been imposed.

But if you did want to note an appeal, you should do so within 14 days of the entry of the judgment and commitment order in this case, pursuant to Rule 4(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Mr. Lawlor, you do not need to notify the Court, but you should make sure your notes to your file reflect your discussions with your client in that regard, presumably based upon his representation here and his adoption of the submission submitted last night by Mr. Jamison and his oral adoption of that here today that he'll want to file an appeal.

Pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 3006A,
Mr. Byrd, if you cannot afford an attorney to represent you, an
attorney can be appointed to represent you.

In that regard, Mr. Lawlor, in light of the representations here today, Ms. Maureen Essex, our Criminal Justice Act Panel Coordinator, is here and if you can talk with her tomorrow so that Mr. Byrd understands that he has a deadline for filing an appeal in this case.

And if he chooses to retain private counsel, that's

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If he doesn't, we need to make sure we get
 1
     fine.
     court-appointed counsel appointed for him so that a
 2
     court-appointed lawyer, who would, in fact, then be the fourth
 3
     court-appointed lawyer in this case, would be able to file the
 4
 5
     paperwork for him. Because I think in light of his
 6
     representations as to you, that if he wants court-appointed
 7
     counsel, yet another lawyer --
              MR. LAWLOR: Your Honor, just for the record, what
 8
     I'll do is I will note the appeal.
 9
10
                          Okay. Just do it right away.
              THE COURT:
              MR. LAWLOR: And then I'll move to withdraw in the
11
     Fourth Circuit, and they will appoint someone without a
12
     conflict.
13
              THE COURT:
                          That's fine.
14
15
              And you just coordinate that with Ms. Essex, who's
16
     here in court, just so we cover that base.
17
              That way, Mr. Byrd, if you have another
18
     court-appointed lawyer, which will be Number 4 -- but if you
19
     can get a private lawyer to represent you, that's fine.
20
     Mr. Lawlor will file an appeal with you -- with the court on
21
     your behalf within the next 24 hours.
22
              So thank you very much.
              Is there anything further from the point -- well,
23
     there's one other further matter here.
24
25
              Is there anything further, Mr. Warwick, from your
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point of view?
 1
              MR. WARWICK: No, Your Honor. The Court has already
 2
     signed a preliminary order of forfeiture.
 3
              THE COURT: Yes.
 4
 5
              MR. WARWICK: I will submit the final order once the
    publications have been made for certain properties.
 6
 7
              THE COURT:
                          That's fine. I think that you -- as to
     that, that may have to be stayed pending the appeal filed by
 8
    Mr. Byrd. We'll have to see how that works.
 9
              MR. WARWICK: One doesn't --
10
11
              THE COURT: I think you need to wait until he gets a
    new lawyer, because to the extent that there are assets that
12
     are marked as forfeiture, he is challenging -- he's essentially
13
     saying that nothing was correct or truthful when he testified
14
15
     on November the 2nd.
16
              So to the extent that there's any forfeiture order
     that flows from it -- you certainly can file it. But what I'm
17
18
     saying is I think it's going to have to await the resolution of
19
     the appeal in this case when he files the appeal.
20
              Anything further from the point of view of the
21
    Government?
22
              MR. WARWICK: No, Your Honor. Thank you.
23
                         Mr. Lawlor, anything further, sir?
              THE COURT:
              MR. LAWLOR: Yes, Your Honor.
24
25
              I'd ask the Court to recommend that Mr. Byrd be
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designated by the Bureau of Prisons at the FCI in Miami or the
 1
 2
     FCI in Fairton, New Jersey.
              THE COURT: All right. I'll recommend FCI -- hold on
 3
                  Which one is his first choice?
     one second.
 4
 5
              MR. LAWLOR: Miami.
              THE COURT: All right. I'll recommend FCI Miami.
 6
              MR. LAWLOR: Or Fairton, New Jersey would be --
 7
              THE COURT: Or in the alternative, Madam Clerk,
 8
     Fairton, New Jersey; FCI Fairton, New Jersey.
 9
              MR. LAWLOR: Can you also indicate, Your Honor, that
10
11
    Mr. Byrd has an enemy at Fort Dix and that he not be designated
     there?
12
13
              THE COURT: Yes, I'll do that as well, if you want to
     stay after for a few minutes. Just give that note to
14
15
    Ms. Tyson.
16
              Ms. Tyson, we're going to wind up probably doing this
17
     first thing in the morning.
18
              THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: But we'll make sure that -- definitely not
19
20
     Fort Dix. I will do that.
21
              MR. LAWLOR: And lastly, Your Honor, Mr. Byrd has
     asked me to submit, I suppose, as Defendant's Exhibit 1 in
22
23
     support of his motion to withdraw the guilty plea his phone log
     from CTF, which would indicate his efforts to call certain
24
25
     lawyers prior to --
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That's fine. That will be introduced as
 1
              THE COURT:
     Defendant's Exhibit 1. That will be introduced into evidence.
 2
              MR. LAWLOR: And that's it, Your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT: Hold on one second here.
 4
 5
              Anything else, Mr. Lawlor?
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor.
 6
 7
              THE COURT: All right. Just with that, just one other
     matter, if counsel will just stand by.
 8
              Mr. Byrd, be seated for a minute here, if you will,
 9
     sir.
10
11
              You may be seated, Mr. Lawlor.
              Mr. William Bond, I believe, is in the courtroom.
12
                                                                  Не
13
     had originally filed some matters.
              Mr. Bond, good afternoon to you.
14
              Just -- I'll be entering a memorandum order to the
15
16
     following effect:
17
              On October 19th, 2015, this Court allowed movant,
     William Bond, to intervene in this case, meaning specifically
18
19
     that he would be listed on the docket in this case, because he
20
     had an interest in it.
              And both prior to and since that decision, Mr. Bond
21
     has repeatedly sought to unseal certain portions of the record
22
     in this case.
23
              Now pending before this Court is Mr. Bond's sixth
24
     motion to intervene, filed on November 7th, 2016, by an amended
25
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third letter to intervene, Paper No. 405, dated January 24th,
2 2017. He again renewed his request for unsealing.

And then in an e-mail to chambers dated January 25th, 2017, he requested that the Court hold in abeyance these motions pending Mr. Byrd's sentencing.

Mr. Bond is a member of the public. He's entitled to be kept advised of what occurs here in court, and so I permitted him that courtesy.

I am mindful of the public's right of access to judicial proceedings. The Fourth Circuit's most recent opinion on that, I think, is <u>Doe versus Public Citizen</u>, 749 F.3d 256, a Fourth Circuit opinion in 2014.

And I have considered Mr. Bond's many submissions and have weighed the competing interest in this matter in terms of the matter of certain portions of the record that are under seal and will remain under seal.

So having considered all of those, under the <u>Virginia</u>

<u>Department of State Police versus Washington Post</u> case,

386 F.3d 567, a Fourth Circuit opinion in 2004, the records
that are sealed shall remain sealed.

So it is ordered this 9th day of February, 2017, that the pending motions filed by Mr. Bond, 276, 385, and 405, are denied. To the extent that any other submissions filed by Mr. Bond may be construed as motions, they are similarly denied.

```
Mr. Bond is free to seek review of this memorandum
 1
     order by the United States Court of Appeals for the
 2
     Fourth Circuit, which has noted that mandamus and not appeal is
 3
     the preferred method of review for those orders restricting
 4
 5
     access to criminal proceedings.
              And the key case on that is Baltimore Sun Company
 6
     versus Goetz, 886 F.2d, Page 60, and discussion, Page 63,
 7
     Fourth Circuit opinion in 1989.
 8
              And so, Madam Clerk, I've signed an order to this
 9
     effect, and that order will be filed.
10
              And I think that concludes all matters before this
11
     court as to Mr. Byrd. Is there anything further from the point
12
     of view of the Government?
13
              MR. WARWICK: No, Your Honor. Thank you for your
14
15
     time.
16
              THE COURT: Anything further from the point of view of
17
     the defense?
              MR. LAWLOR: No, Your Honor.
18
              THE COURT:
                          This court stands adjourned.
19
          (Court adjourned at 4:26 p.m.)
20
21
          I, Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR, do hereby certify that
     the foregoing is a correct transcript from the stenographic
     record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
22
                                  /s/
23
                      Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR
                      Registered Diplomate Reporter
24
                      Certified Realtime Reporter
                     Federal Official Court Reporter
25
                         DATE: April 17, 2017
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Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR - Federal Official Court Reporter

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Case 1:14-cr-00186	203 (Diocamient 425) Filed 04/17/	17 Page 56 of 68
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	J	52/14

Case 1:14-cr-00186 after-hours [1] 4/4 afternoon [8] 2/3 2/21 2/24 3/1 22/25 23/2 34/23 53/14 afterwards [1] 30/3 again [5] 7/9 15/4 18/10 29/4 54/2 against [6] 5/16 14/20 31/14 40/9 44/12 48/19 age [1] 37/24 ago [3] 4/11 4/19 32/25 agree [2] 43/8 43/8 agreed [13] 7/24 10/7 12/8 15/3 15/20 22/13 32/8 38/7 40/2 43/7 44/1 45/14 49/5 agreed-upon [1] 44/1 agreement [12] 5/22 5/25 11/20 13/10 13/13 32/9 35/23 43/17 43/22 47/8 48/20 49/3 ahead [3] 9/10 29/18 29/19 air [1] 12/6 alcohol [1] 47/22 Alexis [1] 14/2 Alexis Danneman [1] 14/2 alien [2] 40/20 40/21 all [37] 2/10 4/16 5/9 6/7 6/12 6/16 7/13 9/7 10/1 12/9 15/9 16/9 20/21 21/25 24/11 24/12 25/15 26/7 27/3 28/6 29/9 29/24 30/4 34/18 35/2 37/4 37/5 41/2 41/25 44/6 44/11 44/19 52/3 52/6 53/7 54/17 55/11 alleged [3] 24/24 31/10 38/5 allotted [1] 10/11 allow [1] 9/8 allowed [8] 8/24 17/5 18/10 19/20 19/22 36/24 40/16 53/17 almost [2] 19/5 44/10 already [9] 20/21 22/21 22/22 44/9 44/17 44/18 47/7 48/18 51/2 also [12] 1/19 2/14 6/22 24/22 25/4 28/15 30/6 35/11 45/12 46/2 46/22 52/10 alternative [2] 45/20 52/8 although [2] 4/11 25/2 am [3] 35/5 48/17 54/9 amassed [1] 47/6 amended [1] 53/25 amending [1] 29/4 AMERICA [1] 1/3 among [1] 35/10 amount [2] 10/11 47/6 amplification [1] 39/8 analysis [4] 34/6 34/12 44/21 44/23 and/or [1] 47/22 Andrea [1] 29/7 Andrea King [1] 29/7 Anita [1] 29/9 Anita Bush [1] 29/9 another [7] 4/3 5/16 10/16 36/20 37/24 50/7 50/17 answer [2] 5/15 43/14 answers [1] 5/15 anticipation [1] 40/18 any [46] 5/15 6/16 7/13 7/25 15/9 15/23 15/25 16/16 18/5 19/1 19/5 22/1 23/19 25/12 25/21 26/2 26/19 28/23 31/21 32/1 34/16 34/19 34/22 35/22

35/23 35/25 38/6 38/10 38/18 \_88/210039/jtmety(14243/113i|e6/04/17 46/25 48/5 48/6 48/6 48/7 48/8 48/9 48/10 48/13 49/4 51/16 54/23 anybody [1] 6/23 anyhow [3] 8/9 11/11 11/15 anyone [1] 6/25 anything [11] 16/7 32/5 41/23 43/24 50/23 50/25 51/20 51/23 53/5 55/12 55/16 apart [1] 34/1 apnea [1] 30/7 apparently [4] 4/18 12/19 40/8 42/10 appeal [12] 18/2 18/2 49/4 49/7 49/16 49/24 50/9 50/20 51/8 51/19 51/19 55/3 Appeals [5] 17/12 18/13 33/12 45/6 55/2 appear [1] 26/14 appearance [9] 3/11 8/22 11/13 12/13 13/9 14/2 15/9 15/15 47/3 appeared [4] 13/1 14/13 15/5 19/25 Appellate [1] 49/10 applicable [1] 35/22 applied [3] 18/15 33/4 45/18 apply [3] 33/9 36/19 47/18 appoint [1] 50/12 appointed [21] 8/15 10/20 11/7 11/8 13/7 14/10 14/13 14/24 15/1 15/2 15/6 18/5 18/12 19/17 49/19 50/2 50/2 50/3 50/4 50/6 50/18 appreciate [1] 9/9 approach [3] 20/25 21/22 33/8 appropriate [4] 34/9 34/11 36/1 47/11 approved [2] 47/21 48/1 April [7] 13/20 14/14 22/20 31/15 44/8 46/17 55/25 April 18th [1] 13/20 April 28th [1] 14/14 April 29th [2] 44/8 46/17 are [41] 2/8 5/14 7/3 7/4 10/18 10/19 12/16 17/8 17/12 22/9 23/25 25/4 25/7 25/9 28/7 31/7 31/8 31/25 32/1 32/12 32/17 33/7 33/18 34/14 35/2 35/8 35/11 36/7 37/6 37/6 38/10 40/19 40/20 42/12 48/15 51/12 51/13 54/15 54/20 54/22 54/24 argue [1] 7/21 Arizona [2] 43/3 44/8 around [1] 9/22 arrest [3] 40/24 40/25 44/7 arrests [1] 40/23 arrived [1] 15/10 as [87] Ashley [1] 29/8 Ashley Channing [1] 29/8 ask [5] 3/25 38/16 43/7 44/1 51/25 asked [8] 5/13 6/24 7/3 8/17 8/25 9/2 13/18 52/22 asking [4] 5/18 6/22 7/20 7/24 assault [3] 26/8 27/17 37/25 asserted [2] 17/16 19/11 asserting [1] 7/22 assertion [4] 6/13 19/7 26/24 46/24

assessed [1] 48/22 45/se\$50ept 5[2] f 68/23 48/25 assets [4] 13/25 14/5 30/21 51/12 assistance [3] 17/20 19/19 35/19 Assistant [2] 1/15 42/13 attacks [2] 12/16 12/17 attorney [9] 4/3 13/3 13/5 13/17 14/9 14/22 42/14 49/18 49/19 Attorney's [1] 1/20 attorneys [3] 1/15 9/16 14/1 August [2] 14/19 38/18 auspices [1] 45/22 author [3] 25/25 26/6 29/17 authorities [1] 44/7 await [1] 51/18 aware [6] 4/6 10/1 10/19 16/16 16/18 45/19 away [1] 50/10 back [9] 2/10 9/17 9/22 11/20

19/9 27/20 36/3 36/13 44/8 balance [1] 33/2 Baltimore [4] 1/9 1/25 40/24 55/6 Baltimore County [1] 40/24 Baltimore Sun [1] 55/6 Bar [5] 3/10 10/19 12/13 12/14 12/15 base [2] 37/11 50/16 based [5] 15/14 24/23 24/24 38/1 49/13 basis [11] 6/12 6/16 6/18 6/19 7/13 7/16 7/19 7/20 7/25 8/4 24/1 battle [1] 11/20 be [90] because [15] 6/2 7/4 9/4 10/4 11/23 14/11 16/17 16/18 26/17 37/12 43/4 46/23 50/5 51/12 53/19 Bedtime [2] 34/20 34/21 been [20] 4/25 5/4 5/7 5/9 6/9 8/16 20/5 24/17 25/23 27/19 27/25 30/15 31/1 33/5 33/16 36/12 42/25 46/24 49/6 51/6 before [23] 1/10 2/6 3/24 5/11 8/6 8/16 9/5 18/7 18/9 18/21 19/11 21/14 22/12 26/9 26/22 27/18 30/11 32/15 39/3 43/18 47/4 53/24 55/11 begins [1] 36/17 behalf [6] 2/20 33/17 42/14 42/19 44/15 50/21 behest [1] 3/17 being [12] 11/21 26/23 27/24 28/2 28/24 34/2 37/19 41/16 42/7 44/12 47/5 48/25 belaboring [1] 29/16 believe [8] 4/11 24/14 24/16 28/4 28/19 32/3 48/10 53/12 bench [6] 21/13 21/15 21/16 21/22 21/24 46/10 bend [1] 5/5 BENNETT [1] 1/10 between [2] 17/18 19/13 birthplace [1] 27/20 Bond [8] 53/12 53/14 53/18 53/21 54/6 54/22 54/24 55/1

		58
B 00000 1:11 4 00 00100	Chief [2] 35/14 36/2	confirm [1] 21/14
Case 1:14-cr-00186	ElDef Doudgen (221) 425/14-136(204/17)	¢ኞnf ፲ gtje[ ፮ 웅 ርሃ/ፎ¦ያ 9/23 50/13
Bond's [2] 53/24 54/13	choice [1] 52/4	Congress [1] 35/9
Booker [5] 32/19 32/25 33/9	chooses [1] 49/25	Congressionally [1] 44/25
44/21 44/23	Circuit [14] 17/5 17/7 17/8	consider [1] 44/2
born [8] 31/14 31/20 40/7 40/8	17/12 18/14 18/15 32/11 45/6	consideration [2] 30/20 34/1
40/17 41/12 41/16 41/19	45/7 50/12 54/12 54/19 55/3	considered [4] 17/13 45/25
both [3] 2/8 46/6 53/21	55/8	54/13 54/17
bound [1] 33/9	Circuit's [1] 54/10	considering [2] 38/6 46/3
Bowie [4] 24/25 38/20 38/25	circumstances [3] 45/10 45/16	considers [1] 33/15
39/17	46/1	
Bowman [1] 18/14	· ·	consistent [2] 47/8 48/19
	citizen [2] 31/19 54/11	conspiracy [1] 22/15
Brennan [4] 13/9 13/17 14/9	claimed [1] 18/17	Constitutional [1] 33/2
19/19	Clarify [1] 3/7	Constitutionality [1] 32/21
Brooklyn [5] 27/21 31/20 40/7	clarifying [1] 40/17	construed [1] 54/24
41/12 41/19	Clark [3] 1/15 2/14 2/17	consult [1] 33/10
Brown [3] 9/19 9/21 9/23	classified [1] 27/5	contact [6] 4/5 9/25 10/2 24/25
bullied [2] 11/21 12/7	Clayanna [1] 29/21	48/6 48/10
burden [1] 30/24	Clayanna Warthen [1] 29/21	contacted [2] 9/15 9/18
Bureau [2] 46/13 52/1	clear [7] 12/25 18/4 18/7 19/4	containing [1] 36/16
Bush [1] 29/9	19/15 20/10 32/7	contains [1] 36/11
business [1] 46/25	clearly [2] 28/15 45/23	contend [3] 41/11 41/19 42/6
BYRD [64]	clerk [5] 10/24 35/20 42/3 52/8	contended [1] 24/15
Byrd's [5] 24/22 27/24 31/1	55/9	contends [2] 26/21 31/18
38/19 54/5	client [4] 20/22 35/3 43/23	contention [2] 31/1 40/6
	49/13	context [1] 33/4
С	close [2] 17/20 19/19	continue [2] 13/18 19/6
C. [1] 9/19	closer [2] 4/21 5/2	conversation [1] 12/6
Cabou [1] 14/1	co [9] 24/25 27/24 28/2 28/4	conviction [4] 25/20 26/1 26/3
calculate [1] 32/10	28/15 28/16 28/20 28/24 38/20	26/4
calculation [7] 23/24 26/15	co-defendant [9] 24/25 27/24	cooperate [1] 48/12
27/11 32/4 33/24 37/9 46/8	28/2 28/4 28/15 28/16 28/20	cooperating [1] 46/11
calendar [1] 12/2	28/24 38/20	coordinate [1] 50/15
call [2] 9/13 52/24	cocaine [1] 22/16	Coordinator [3] 10/14 10/18
calling [3] 2/4 9/14 9/16	Code [4] 22/18 33/14 45/9 49/17	49/22
came [1] 30/18	Coie [4] 13/21 30/19 30/22 47/2	
can [22] 2/10 5/5 9/13 20/22	collection [1] 48/12	correct [12] 4/24 6/2 6/14 7/11
20/24 21/7 21/14 21/17 27/15	colloquy [3] 6/23 15/19 18/18	23/14 23/15 23/16 24/17 24/19
27/18 30/25 36/24 38/16 39/6	come [5] 8/25 11/1 21/8 30/21	26/11 51/14 55/21
39/8 41/4 41/22 49/19 49/22	30/24	corrected [1] 8/20
50/19 51/17 52/10	comes [2] 37/14 40/19	correction [2] 24/17 25/23
cannot [3] 20/9 37/1 49/18		
case [67]	comfortable [1] 39/11 comments [2] 12/5 44/2	corrections [3] 25/5 25/13 25/18
cases [3] 35/12 44/22 44/24	Commission [4] 35/16 35/25 36/5	· ·
Castle [1] 28/15	36/23	cosmetic [3] 25/7 25/9 25/10
category [3] 26/18 38/4 39/25	commitment [2] 35/18 49/8	could [5] 15/14 21/20 30/21
Category III [1] 26/18	communicated [1] 6/10	36/21 36/22
category of III [2] 38/4 39/25		
causing [1] 34/22	communication [1] 15/9	counsel [25] 2/11 2/14 3/14 4/9
	Company [1] 55/6	10/12 11/24 13/7 13/14 13/25
caution [1] 39/18	compared [1] 40/23	14/6 15/2 17/21 19/19 19/20
Celexa [1] 34/15	competent [6] 17/21 19/19 19/20	
cell [1] 8/7	19/22 19/24 35/3	30/19 43/8 49/25 50/2 50/7 53/8
certain [13] 12/15 13/25 14/20	competing [1] 54/14	counseling [3] 46/19 47/23 48/2
16/23 25/2 25/4 35/15 38/10	complexity [1] 43/5	count [13] 7/4 7/5 22/15 22/18
47/7 51/6 52/24 53/22 54/15	complied [2] 37/6 37/7	23/12 43/12 46/14 46/15 46/15
certainly [8] 30/25 36/13 43/22	complies [1] 26/23	47/14 47/14 47/15 48/23
44/3 44/5 44/6 45/15 51/17	computer [1] 2/18	Count 1 [6] 7/4 22/15 46/14
certified [2] 16/11 55/24	concern [1] 44/4	46/15 47/14 47/15
certify [1] 55/21	concerning [1] 46/10	Count 2 [4] 7/5 22/18 46/15
certiorari [1] 18/19	concludes [1] 55/11	47/14
chagrin [1] 18/8	concurrent [3] 43/11 46/15	country [1] 31/15
challenging [1] 51/13	47/15	counts [2] 2/8 23/12
chambers [1] 54/3	conditions [3] 47/17 47/19	County [1] 40/24
chance [1] 23/3	48/15	couple [1] 29/17
Chang [1] 29/9	conduct [5] 13/23 38/5 41/14	course [2] 16/19 21/10
change [2] 23/23 27/10	45/2 45/11	court [101]
changes [2] 24/6 24/11		Court's [5] 6/3 11/17 22/1
Channing [1] 29/8	conference [4] 15/8 21/16 21/24	38/23 39/1
characteristics [4] 29/5 36/11	46/10	court-appointed [15] 8/15 11/7
45/17 46/1	conferred [2] 4/9 20/23	13/7 14/10 14/13 14/24 15/2
charge [5] 22/17 37/23 37/24	confidential [3] 36/11 36/16	15/6 18/12 19/17 50/2 50/3 50/4
37/24 37/25	36/20	50/6 50/18

33/25 34/5 52/16

doing [3]

## HeniaDoulment425 Filed 04/17 47 18 19 59 6 5 7/12 7/15 denied [6] 3/14 18/19 20/15 7/18 9/7 10/14 10/17 10/23 11/5 Case 1:14-cr-00186 courtesy [2] 14/2 54/8 26/3 54/23 54/25 courtroom [3] 1/8 2/18 53/12 11/14 12/6 19/1 20/19 26/19 courts [2] 33/11 35/11 denies [1] 25/20 27/25 28/1 28/23 30/1 32/3 cousin [1] 28/14 Department [2] 40/21 54/18 38/24 39/10 39/16 42/2 cover [1] 50/16 departures [1] 35/22 Douglas [3] 1/23 55/21 55/23 credible [3] 17/14 19/3 19/7 credibly [2] 17/16 19/11 deport [1] 41/13 down [3] 21/3 21/21 41/22 deportation [2] 31/17 43/10 downward [1] 37/19 credit [4] 22/20 44/6 44/11 37/24 37/24 42/24 43/5 depth [1] 43/19 drug [7] 45/24 46/20 47/5 46/16 Deputy [1] 35/20 credited [1] 44/12 designated [2] 52/1 52/11 drug-trafficking [1] 47/5 criminal [27] 1/4 2/5 2/7 6/24 desire [1] 44/5 during [2] 12/5 18/18 10/14 10/18 10/25 12/22 17/2 desired [1] 36/21 22/13 24/16 26/13 26/15 27/8 despite [1] 10/15 27/9 31/23 35/12 37/13 37/22 e-mail [1] 54/3 detailed [3] 5/21 18/23 19/8 detainer [3] 31/13 40/9 42/11 38/2 38/3 38/5 38/11 39/25 45/2 each [1] 35/14 49/21 55/5 earlier [2] 39/14 47/1 deter [1] 45/2 criteria [2] 17/8 19/2 early [2] 34/6 45/19 determination [2] 37/9 39/1 criterion [1] 20/3 effect [3] 34/22 53/16 55/10 determine [3] 3/17 38/10 44/14 criticizing [1] 39/11 effectively [1] 33/5 determined [1] 13/6 CRR [3] 1/23 55/21 55/23 determining [2] 34/7 34/8 effort [3] 38/19 41/13 43/4 CTF [1] 52/24 detrimental [1] 16/22 efforts [2] 24/25 52/24 custody [4] 22/20 44/7 46/13 either [1] 39/7 device [2] 48/8 48/9 46/16 electronic [1] 3/6 did [11] 3/25 4/6 25/21 26/1 Customs [1] 40/8 29/24 30/14 30/23 32/22 34/16 eligible [1] 46/21 else [3] 36/24 41/23 53/5 40/18 49/7 didn't [11] 11/1 11/2 11/4 11/5 elsewhere [1] 43/3 Damon [2] 1/20 2/15 employed [2] 30/16 31/1 11/16 11/23 12/14 18/22 23/3 Damon Gasque [2] 1/20 2/15 26/2 41/6 employment [4] 30/13 30/14 Danneman [1] 14/2 different [1] 26/1 46/24 46/25 date [14] 3/11 13/11 13/14 difficulties [1] 16/16 end [3] 40/3 41/13 47/9 13/18 13/19 14/12 14/15 14/24 enemy [1] 52/11 dilatory [1] 18/6 15/4 15/15 18/9 28/7 32/15 Diplomate [1] 55/24 enforcement [2] 40/8 43/2 55/25 engaged [1] 11/19 direct [1] 4/6 dated [3] 44/2 54/1 54/3 Enjoin [1] 3/8 directed [1] 48/13 David [3] 14/13 14/23 19/22 directing [1] 36/3 ensure [1] 35/14 discharge [4] 11/10 19/21 19/23 enter [4] 3/10 11/13 15/15 47/2 David Solomon [3] 14/13 14/23 19/22 20/1 entered [5] 8/22 11/1 31/15 day [11] 5/1 5/8 6/9 8/5 8/6 discount [1] 39/7 47/7 48/19 11/12 11/12 15/17 23/6 23/10 discuss [2] 3/17 21/4 entering [5] 14/2 15/20 17/18 54/21 19/13 53/15 discussion [4] 21/12 21/14 days [6] 3/13 3/23 32/15 35/15 21/25 55/7 enterprise [1] 47/5 36/6 49/8 entire [1] 19/16 discussions [1] 49/13 deadline [1] 49/24 disorder [1] 44/4 entitled [3] 3/7 54/6 55/22 deal [5] 10/16 30/12 31/21 entry [4] 3/14 13/8 15/9 49/8 disposition [2] 15/21 32/8 disputed [8] 31/8 31/22 31/25 erased [1] 26/23 40/12 40/13 dealt [2] 27/19 41/21 32/1 38/10 38/13 40/5 42/12 Esquire [4] 1/14 1/15 1/17 1/18 December [1] 33/21 essentially [5] 7/23 18/18 disputing [2] 7/23 37/18 decided [1] 33/20 dissatisfaction [2] 13/16 14/23 18/21 22/4 51/13 decision [2] 38/8 53/21 Essex [2] 49/21 50/15 distribute [2] 22/15 22/16 deducted [1] 49/1 establish [1] 45/21 DISTRICT [2] 1/1 1/1 deemed [3] 47/23 48/3 48/13 DIVISION [1] 1/2 established [1] 17/9 defendant [42] 1/5 1/16 2/5 Dix [2] 52/11 52/20 DNA [1] 48/13 evaluation [2] 47/22 48/2 2/20 4/9 17/3 17/9 17/14 17/16 DNA [1] 48/13 eve [2] 18/6 19/6 even [2] 26/13 27/14 17/20 18/17 20/10 20/23 22/2 do [26] 4/25 5/7 5/14 5/18 6/4 24/12 24/25 26/21 27/21 27/24 7/7 7/18 7/20 11/17 23/21 29/20 evening [2] 3/5 22/8 28/2 28/4 28/15 28/16 28/20 every [1] 46/9 36/21 37/2 39/8 40/16 41/9 28/24 29/5 29/11 30/14 32/9 43/25 44/5 47/9 49/7 49/11 50/9 everyone [1] 2/3 36/10 38/20 40/13 42/6 45/1 50/10 52/13 52/20 55/21 evidence [6] 17/15 19/3 38/19 45/2 45/3 45/4 45/11 45/17 46/2 42/4 42/10 53/2 docket [3] 11/18 18/3 53/19 46/11 46/12 document [4] 3/18 4/18 6/6 exactly [1] 45/13 defendant's [6] 24/16 28/14 excoriation [1] 11/15 41/17 28/16 40/6 52/22 53/2 5/23 6/1 41/5 42/1 exhibit [7] documents [4] 35/16 35/18 36/4 defense [5] 25/15 25/18 27/4 48/21 52/22 53/2 36/7 40/11 55/17 Doe [1] 54/11 exists [1] 42/11 deficient [1] 47/1 explanatory [1] 43/19 Doe versus Public Citizen [1] definitely [2] 22/19 52/19 54/11 expressed [1] 13/16 degree [3] 26/8 27/17 37/25 does [8] 4/7 4/11 10/14 22/1 extension [1] 13/14 delay [4] 17/18 18/6 19/6 19/13 extent [5] 37/5 41/12 51/12 25/12 26/14 26/15 42/5 delete [1] 39/20 doesn't [7] 26/7 26/14 27/10 51/16 54/23 deleted [3] 27/15 27/18 28/17 41/20 46/25 50/1 51/10

deletion [2] 32/22 33/1

Case 1:14-cr-00186 F.3d [5] 17/6 18/14 45/7 54/11 54/19 facility [1] 9/15 facing [1] 47/4 fact [12] 7/4 8/14 16/24 33/16 36/9 38/21 39/13 42/10 45/23 49/1 49/6 50/3 factor [2] 33/14 38/8 factors [7] 17/13 18/15 22/2 34/1 45/9 45/18 46/7 facts [8] 5/21 6/2 7/23 18/23 19/10 38/22 39/15 43/16 factual [3] 6/2 39/15 39/16 failure [1] 22/2 fair [2] 17/3 34/11 fairly [1] 41/22 found [1] 18/4
Fairton [4] 52/2 52/7 52/9 52/9 four [7] 17/20 26/17 27/9 37/12 fall [1] 13/5 falls [1] 40/3 false [2] 5/17 16/3 falsely [1] 5/15 family [5] 29/6 29/10 36/11 36/16 36/20 far [4] 36/13 41/22 41/22 44/12 Farmer [3] 13/24 30/23 45/22 fashion [1] 15/21 fault [1] 18/5 FCI [5] 52/1 52/2 52/3 52/6 52/9 FCI Fairton [1] 52/9 FCI Miami [1] 52/6 February [2] 1/8 54/21 federal [22] 1/24 2/7 6/23 12/22 17/2 22/13 22/20 24/3 31/23 32/21 33/3 33/6 33/9 33/22 35/11 35/12 35/14 38/11 44/7 46/16 49/9 55/25 Federal Court [1] 35/14 feel [2] 7/12 12/3 fell [1] 47/1 felt [2] 7/10 12/7 few [2] 32/2 52/14 fifth [2] 20/3 48/12 figure [1] 10/8 file [9] 13/10 16/22 40/21 40/22 49/12 49/16 50/4 50/20 51/17 filed [18] 3/5 3/9 3/17 5/10 10/16 12/12 12/19 14/21 14/22 16/25 20/13 22/7 51/8 53/13 53/25 54/22 54/23 55/10 files [1] 51/19 filing [3] 3/6 4/6 49/24 final [1] 51/5 finally [2] 20/8 30/11 financed [1] 45/23 financial [1] 48/5 find [3] 10/3 10/4 46/5 finding [1] 42/2 finds [3] 10/24 19/1 35/25 fine [14] 12/8 16/12 21/7 34/24 35/1 43/15 44/19 48/17 48/22 50/1 50/14 50/19 51/7 53/1 fingerprinted [1] 40/20 finish [1] 9/8 firm [1] 13/21 firmly [1] 15/15 first [12] 3/16 4/12 4/19 13/2 14/10 24/11 33/24 37/8 38/13 40/11 52/4 52/17

five [7] 4/11 4/19 8/16 17/22 LO/100841146311/425 Filed 04/17/167verPage 6030/168 Floor [1] 1/24 flows [1] 51/17 followed [1] 43/10 following [5] 8/18 9/3 29/6 47/18 53/16 foot [2] 11/24 11/25 force [1] 6/25 forced [1] 11/21 foregoing [1] 55/21 forfeiture [5] 47/7 48/18 51/3 51/13 51/16 Fort [2] 52/11 52/20 Fort Dix [2] 52/11 52/20 forth [3] 11/20 20/12 43/16 forward [3] 15/12 15/25 30/24 38/2 44/25 45/8 four-level [1] 37/12 fourth [17] 17/5 17/7 17/8 17/12 18/14 18/15 32/11 45/6 45/7 48/6 50/3 50/12 54/10 54/12 54/19 55/3 55/8 Fourth Circuit [14] 17/5 17/7 17/8 17/12 18/14 18/15 32/11 45/6 45/7 50/12 54/12 54/19 55/3 55/8 Fourth Circuit's [1] 54/10 free [7] 6/20 40/13 41/11 41/18 41/19 42/6 55/1 freed [1] 14/5 freely [1] 7/4 front [1] 19/25 Fulcott [1] 29/9 full [1] 44/11 further [9] 19/1 37/1 50/23 50/24 50/25 51/20 51/23 55/12 55/16 Furthermore [1] 19/18

G Gall [3] 33/20 44/22 44/24 Gasque [3] 1/20 2/15 2/17 get [14] 8/8 8/11 9/22 10/4 21/3 22/20 23/3 25/3 27/20 29/24 30/2 44/6 50/1 50/19 gets [2] 30/4 51/11 getting [2] 10/7 44/11 give [5] 21/8 29/16 42/13 44/15 52/14 given [5] 8/14 9/1 37/19 40/20 42/18 glad [4] 39/3 42/20 43/21 43/24 go [14] 4/1 9/3 9/10 11/2 11/25 12/1 12/11 15/11 25/11 29/18 29/18 32/13 35/6 35/16 goal [1] 34/2 goals [2] 34/3 46/6 goes [2] 20/4 36/18 Goetz [1] 55/7 going [35] 6/5 8/8 8/10 8/17 9/9 10/5 11/24 12/1 12/2 12/4 15/25 19/16 21/2 21/8 21/11 21/12 24/8 25/5 25/16 27/3 27/8 33/25 36/13 37/4 41/14 41/20 44/6 44/10 46/18 46/20 46/22 47/12 48/17 51/18 52/16 good [8] 2/3 2/21 2/24 3/1 22/25 23/2 28/23 53/14 got [5] 4/4 9/20 21/3 30/1

40/21

Government [25] 3/2 6/1 15/3 17/23 18/8 18/24 20/4 20/5 20/24 22/14 23/10 25/2 25/12 32/9 38/16 39/3 40/10 40/11 41/17 42/9 42/15 43/23 49/4 51/21 55/13 Government's [4] 5/23 41/5 42/1 48/21 Government's Exhibit [4] 5/23 41/5 42/1 48/21 granted [4] 13/19 18/11 29/1 31/4 great [1] 39/1 greater [2] 34/3 46/5 greatly [1] 9/9 guideline [21] 23/23 23/24 25/1 26/8 26/16 27/11 31/22 32/4 32/10 33/22 33/25 34/4 34/10 35/22 37/8 40/1 40/4 45/12 45/13 46/7 47/10 guidelines [12] 24/24 31/11 32/21 32/23 32/23 33/2 33/4 33/5 33/7 33/10 34/2 38/12 guilty [43] 2/6 3/8 4/24 5/10 5/11 5/24 6/3 6/8 6/13 6/20 7/1 7/3 7/4 7/11 7/14 7/22 8/1 12/21 12/23 15/18 15/22 15/24 16/2 16/14 17/1 17/4 17/10 17/15 18/17 18/25 19/9 20/15 20/20 22/3 22/5 22/12 23/8 23/11 32/16 34/7 46/9 48/21 52/23

Η had [21] 4/5 6/23 7/2 8/14 8/15 8/16 9/11 11/17 11/24 15/8 17/20 18/8 19/18 32/23 33/5 40/22 42/23 43/2 48/18 53/13 53/20 half [3] 22/22 38/5 44/10 handgun [1] 37/23 happen [1] 12/4 happening [1] 26/25 happy [1] 43/13 has [36] 4/5 4/15 6/9 6/25 8/23 9/21 16/10 17/5 20/2 20/5 24/17 25/23 25/25 26/22 26/25 27/19 30/15 31/1 31/13 33/15 36/12 41/17 42/10 42/23 43/13 44/9 44/21 44/23 45/17 49/6 49/23 51/2 52/11 52/21 53/22 55/3 have [48] 3/3 3/4 3/20 3/23 4/18 4/21 5/5 11/24 18/2 18/4 18/6 18/18 19/11 20/6 21/2 21/2 21/3 21/8 21/11 21/13 23/18 23/21 24/4 25/12 26/17 27/25 28/9 30/11 30/15 31/18 36/20 36/22 38/4 38/4 42/25 45/8 45/12 45/15 45/23 46/25 48/6 50/17 51/6 51/8 51/9 51/18 54/13 54/14 haven't [1] 24/7 having [1] 54/17 he [67] he'll [1] 49/16 he's [15] 2/22 4/13 12/14 12/15 19/24 21/2 30/6 40/16 41/14 42/7 46/19 46/23 46/24 51/13 54/6 head [1] 21/18

	-	6
TT .	I've [14] 4/25 5/4 5/7 6/10	53/1 53/2
H Case 1:14-cr-00186-	L20/2D02017n@81/9425/14=14@1/204/17	1 rve staget from off 68 43/1
headset [3] 21/3 21/9 21/11	44/9 44/24 45/25 47/7 55/9	involved [3] 37/13 42/25 48/10
health [3] 44/5 46/19 48/1	ICE [1] 31/13	is [126]
	ICE detainer [1] 31/13	issue [9] 15/25 25/1 25/2 26/20
21/17 21/20 39/3 39/4 40/11	identify [1] 2/11	30/18 31/21 37/17 40/18 45/19
42/20 43/24	ignore [1] 39/7	issued [1] 36/2
heard [2] 3/23 41/9	III [3] 26/18 38/4 39/25	issues [1] 8/3
hearing [9] 3/7 4/2 10/7 11/12	imagine [1] 20/9	it [76]
11/12 13/23 14/19 30/23 38/18	immediately [1] 49/1	it's [17] 2/19 12/4 21/5 21/6
held [3] 14/19 21/25 33/1	immigration [5] 40/8 40/13	22/4 22/4 27/21 28/3 34/11
her [3] 28/24 30/3 49/23	41/21 42/8 42/11	38/25 40/25 41/20 41/21 42/23
here [38] 2/9 5/8 10/12 10/15	implications [1] 43/20	42/24 46/5 51/18
11/11 12/11 12/14 15/10 20/14	important [1] 21/5	item [1] 41/4
21/2 21/12 21/12 22/25 23/19		
	impose [2] 34/2 48/17	its [3] 4/6 33/3 34/5
23/21 25/6 26/25 30/12 32/13	imposed [5] 35/21 41/20 44/25	IJ
32/18 34/22 35/3 39/1 41/14	46/2 49/6	
41/21 41/25 45/12 45/14 45/20	imposing [3] 33/11 33/15 35/12	Jacques [1] 14/1
49/14 49/16 49/21 49/22 50/16	imposition [1] 35/15	jail [1] 4/1
50/24 53/4 53/9 54/7	incapacitate [1] 45/3	Jamaica [5] 27/21 31/14 40/9
hereby [1] 55/21	incarcerated [2] 46/19 46/23	40/17 41/16
hi [1] 23/3	inclined [4] 23/6 23/9 39/17	James [5] 1/14 2/13 24/25 38/20
him [31] 8/17 9/1 9/2 9/15 9/16	40/12	38/25
9/19 10/1 10/7 10/7 10/9 11/1	include [5] 35/18 35/21 46/10	James Bowie [2] 24/25 38/25
11/13 11/15 11/16 15/14 16/8	47/22 48/2	James Warwick [2] 1/14 2/13
16/8 16/13 19/23 20/1 21/3 21/8	included [1] 39/16	Jamila [1] 29/8
24/9 26/18 31/14 31/17 40/9		Jamila [1] 29/8
41/13 50/2 50/5 54/8	including [2] 23/22 48/8	Jamison [20] 3/9 3/23 4/2 4/5
	income [3] 30/20 30/25 45/20	
himself [1] 10/2	inconvenience [3] 17/24 20/8	8/6 8/8 8/10 8/14 8/21 9/24
hire [8] 9/24 10/1 10/12 10/14	20/10	9/25 10/3 10/6 11/11 12/12
10/17 10/23 11/2 11/5	incorrectly [1] 24/15	15/10 16/2 20/13 22/6 49/15
hired [2] 11/4 11/6	indeed [5] 5/13 15/19 34/9 40/2	Jamison's [1] 10/15
his [31] 3/10 3/14 8/22 9/23	45/17	January [7] 13/11 28/8 28/12
10/15 11/13 12/14 15/15 17/16	independent [2] 30/19 30/25	32/19 44/2 54/1 54/3
27/9 28/1 29/6 29/10 33/16	indicate [3] 34/5 52/10 52/24	January 23rd [1] 44/2
38/19 41/13 41/16 44/4 44/4	indicated [17] 4/19 7/1 7/10	January 24th [1] 54/1
44/7 46/24 47/1 49/14 49/14	7/25 8/9 8/14 9/4 15/12 15/14	January 25th [1] 54/3
49/15 50/5 52/4 52/23 52/23	15/17 20/15 22/23 23/5 25/25	jargon [1] 9/8
52/24 54/2	31/18 32/14 34/14	Jean [1] 14/1
history [12] 12/25 24/16 26/13	indicates [2] 4/10 31/20	Jerome [1] 28/15
26/15 27/8 27/9 37/22 38/2 38/3	indicating [2] 14/23 25/25	Jerome Castle [1] 28/15
39/25 42/23 45/16	indication [5] 4/15 15/23 16/1	Jersey [4] 52/2 52/7 52/9 52/9
hold [3] 52/3 53/4 54/4	16/2 46/24	Johnson [1] 16/25
holding [2] 8/7 34/11	indictment [6] 2/8 13/2 23/12	Jr [1] 3/9
1		judge [8] 1/10 12/2 12/3 20/19
holding cell [1] 8/7	35/23 35/24 48/24	1
Homeland [1] 40/22	individual [2] 26/24 30/21	28/13 35/14 36/2 36/21
Homeland Security [1] 40/22	individuals [1] 46/3	judge's [1] 12/3
Honor [68]	indulgence [2] 3/20 4/8	judges [2] 33/9 33/22
HONORABLE [1] 1/10	industry [2] 30/16 31/2	judgment [6] 26/9 26/22 27/18
hopefully [1] 43/10	inform [1] 16/7	35/18 48/19 49/8
hours [2] 4/4 50/21	information [7] 30/15 35/25	judicial [4] 17/25 20/9 20/11
House [1] 36/25	36/12 36/16 36/20 39/16 48/5	54/10
housekeeping [2] 23/21 35/6	informed [2] 16/7 16/13	July [5] 13/11 14/12 14/16
how [2] 12/3 51/9	initially [3] 3/21 13/1 37/15	14/16 14/18
However [1] 11/13	innocence [5] 6/14 7/22 17/17	July 27th [1] 14/18
	19/8 19/11	July 6th [1] 13/11
I	inquire [1] 13/22	June [2] 13/1 13/15
I'd [5] 9/9 26/5 39/3 44/1	inquiry [6] 13/5 13/18 14/9	Junior [1] 29/9
51/25	14/22 15/11 41/14	Junior Saunders [1] 29/9
I'11 [20] 12/19 21/13 27/4		just [33] 3/3 3/24 4/1 5/6 7/20
29/20 30/2 35/19 37/18 40/11	instant [1] 48/7	15
	instant offense [1] 48/7	9/8 12/11 12/24 17/4 18/9 27/3
42/13 42/20 43/13 43/21 43/22	intend [1] 44/3	30/3 32/7 32/13 38/16 39/2 39/7
43/24 50/9 50/11 52/3 52/6	intent [1] 22/16	39/7 40/16 41/3 41/6 44/1 48/25
52/13 53/15	interaction [1] 38/25	49/1 50/8 50/10 50/15 50/16
I'm [39] 3/22 7/17 7/20 7/24	interactions [2] 38/19 38/20	52/14 53/7 53/7 53/8 53/15
9/9 11/22 12/18 12/20 16/9	interest [3] 9/21 53/20 54/14	justice [10] 10/14 10/18 10/25
16/25 21/1 21/2 21/8 24/8 25/2	interim [2] 13/21 34/8	24/23 25/17 31/10 37/17 38/15
25/8 27/3 27/8 28/6 28/11 34/24	Internet [1] 48/9	39/21 49/22
34/25 35/1 37/4 38/5 38/25	interpret [1] 4/23	Justin [1] 9/19
39/10 39/11 39/17 40/11 41/14	intervene [3] 53/18 53/25 54/1	K
41/25 42/1 45/19 46/18 46/20	introduce [1] 41/4	1
46/22 47/12 51/17	introduced [5] 5/23 5/25 48/20	keep [1] 5/6

```
lists [1] 25/19
            Case 1:14-cr-00186
                                Kenneth [3] 1/15 2/14 13/3
                                log [1] 52/23
                                Lombard [1] 1/24
Kenneth Clark [2] 1/15 2/14
                                                                 memorandum [2] 53/15 55/1
kept [1] 54/7
                                 long [4] 36/9 36/12 42/23 45/24
                                                                 mental [3] 44/5 46/19 48/1
key [4] 32/17 33/18 33/19 55/6
                                look [1] 37/1
                                                                 mention [1] 4/2
kind [2] 15/9 15/23
                                looked [3] 38/4 45/8 45/12
                                                                 method [1] 55/4
                                                                 Miami [3] 52/1 52/5 52/6
King [2] 29/7 29/8
                                looking [4] 28/6 28/11 38/22
know [12] 7/12 9/16 10/24 11/4
                                 41/25
                                                                 Michael [4] 1/17 2/22 15/1
11/5 11/14 11/23 27/25 38/17
                                 lot [2] 12/5 23/21
                                                                  19/24
38/24 39/16 42/13
                                low [1] 40/3
                                                                 Michael Lawlor [2] 1/17 2/22
                                                                 microphone [2] 4/21 5/2
knowing [2] 17/15 19/3
                                lower [1] 47/9
                                Lyn [1] 29/22
                                                                 might [3] 14/17 16/21 28/9
                                                                 mindful [1] 54/9
                                Lynn [1] 29/8
L-Y-N [1] 29/22
                                                                 minute [2] 39/9 53/9
                                M
L. [1] 3/9
                                                                 minutes [4] 4/11 4/19 32/2
large [1] 47/5
                                Madam [3] 42/3 52/8 55/9
                                                                  52/14
                                Madam Clerk [3] 42/3 52/8 55/9
largest [1] 42/24
                                                                 Mitchell [4] 13/9 13/17 14/10
last [13] 2/6 3/5 4/4 10/6
                                made [13] 4/15 6/20 9/25 9/25
                                                                  19/20
12/19 15/24 16/24 22/8 22/8
                                 10/1 24/7 24/17 25/23 38/17
                                                                 mode [1] 21/16
34/18 34/20 34/21 49/15
                                 44/2 44/17 44/18 51/6
                                                                 moment [8] 3/21 12/16 25/3
lastly [1] 52/21
                                Madiou [3] 1/18 2/22 2/25
                                                                  30/12 31/21 33/25 37/18 39/1
later [5] 3/13 5/16 13/13 20/2
                                magnitude [1] 43/5
                                                                 Monday [2] 8/18 9/3
42/6
                                mail [2] 48/8 54/3
                                                                 money [4] 22/17 43/12 47/6
laundering [2] 22/17 43/12
                                maintained [1] 43/6
                                                                  48/18
Lavonte [1] 29/8
                                make [6] 30/4 44/14 44/16 49/12
                                                                 money-laundering [2] 22/17
Lavonte King [1] 29/8
                                 50/1 52/19
                                                                  43/12
law [5] 13/21 17/8 32/11 35/9
                                making [3] 5/17 10/2 42/1
                                                                 months [11] 22/15 22/17 22/19
43/2
                                mandamus [1] 55/3
                                                                  24/2 40/1 40/2 46/14 46/14
Lawlor [40] 1/17 2/22 2/24 3/19
                                                                  46/16 47/10 49/5
                                mandated [1] 44/25
9/15 10/1 10/19 11/2 11/19
                                mandatory [4] 32/24 33/6 47/17
                                                                 Moore [4] 17/11 18/15 19/2 22/3
11/22 12/17 15/1 15/5 19/24
                                 48/24
                                                                 moot [1] 24/14
20/22 21/1 23/16 24/5 24/14
                                maneuver [2] 19/6 20/7
                                                                 more [6] 18/2 20/9 23/7 25/7
                                Manifestly [1] 3/8
 24/22 25/23 26/11 27/19 29/2
                                                                  25/9 37/13
 29/14 30/4 31/5 32/5 33/16 35/4
                                manipulated [1] 8/9
                                                                 morning [1] 52/17
39/4 41/9 42/16 43/21 49/11
                                manipulating [1] 11/17
                                                                 most [3] 18/17 28/11 54/10
49/20 50/20 51/23 53/5 53/11
                                many [2] 35/10 54/13
                                                                 mother [5] 9/25 10/8 27/24 28/1
                                marijuana [1] 22/16
Lawlor's [1] 23/22
                                                                  28/16
lawyer [24] 4/19 6/11 8/15
                                marked [2] 36/10 51/13
                                                                 motion [14] 3/7 5/10 12/12
10/17 10/20 10/23 10/24 11/23
                                Marshals [1] 40/25
                                                                  12/20 12/21 12/22 17/1 18/16
12/14 14/13 14/24 15/6 16/7
                                MARYLAND [5] 1/1 1/9 1/25 25/21
                                                                  20/14 22/3 22/4 22/5 52/23
16/20 16/20 18/5 18/12 20/13
                                 43/2
                                                                  53/25
 50/3 50/4 50/7 50/18 50/19
                                material [2] 30/5 36/24
                                                                 motions [6] 14/19 14/21 38/17
51/12
                                 matter [26] 3/3 3/4 16/24 19/5
                                                                  54/5 54/22 54/24
lawyers [10] 9/13 9/14 10/14
                                 21/6 21/22 25/16 27/19 30/6
                                                                 movant [1] 53/17
10/17 10/18 11/7 14/10 19/17
                                 31/8 32/18 35/7 38/13 38/24
                                                                 move [2] 12/2 50/11
45/21 52/25
                                 39/6 40/5 40/6 40/14 41/21 42/5
                                                                 movements [1] 10/2
leader [2] 37/13 47/5
                                 42/24 50/24 53/8 54/14 54/15
                                                                 moving [3] 17/3 17/19 19/14
                                                                 Mr [3] 2/24 16/12 16/15
leave [1] 26/5
                                 55/22
left [1] 30/12
                                matters [10] 24/13 30/12 31/8
                                                                 Mr. [161]
legal [5] 9/8 17/16 19/8 19/11
                                 31/22 31/24 32/1 38/10 42/12
                                                                 Mr. Bond [6] 53/14 53/21 54/6
26/22
                                 53/13 55/11
                                                                  54/22 54/24 55/1
lengthy [1] 11/19
                                 Maureen [1] 49/21
                                                                 Mr. Bond's [2] 53/24 54/13
less [2] 19/16 23/10
                                may [10] 3/2 5/16 29/16 39/5
                                                                 Mr. Bowie [1] 39/17
let [7] 3/20 9/16 12/11 12/24
                                 46/21 47/22 48/2 51/8 53/11
                                                                 Mr. Brennan [2] 13/17 14/9
32/13 35/6 38/16
                                 54/24
                                                                 Mr. Brown [2] 9/21 9/23
letter [4] 9/20 9/20 44/2 54/1
                                me [35] 2/6 3/16 3/20 4/10 5/11
                                                                 Mr. Byrd [60]
letters [1] 16/10
                                 8/7 9/5 9/8 10/3 10/7 10/12
                                                                 Mr. Byrd's [5] 24/22 27/24 31/1
level [12] 24/22 31/9 37/9
                                 11/4 11/16 11/17 11/19 11/22
                                                                  38/19 54/5
37/11 37/12 37/14 37/16 37/19
                                 12/11 12/16 12/16 12/24 16/6
                                                                 Mr. C. Justin Brown [1] 9/19
37/21 38/14 39/18 39/25
                                 16/11 16/18 19/25 21/17 21/20
                                                                 Mr. Clark [1] 2/17
licensed [1]
             12/14
                                 22/12 26/3 32/13 35/6 37/1 38/9
                                                                 Mr. Gasque [1] 2/17
lied [2] 18/18 18/22
                                 38/16 43/18 52/22
                                                                 Mr. James Bowie [1]
                                                                                     38/20
light [6] 19/8 36/9 38/21 39/13 mean [5] 7/15 7/18 26/20 41/15
                                                                 Mr. Jamison [18] 3/23 4/2 4/5
49/20 50/5
                                 42/5
                                                                  8/6 8/8 8/10 8/14 8/21 9/24
like [1] 44/16
                                meaning [1] 53/18
                                                                  9/25 10/3 10/6 11/11 12/12
limited [1] 14/3
                                means [2] 36/7 48/7
                                                                  15/10 16/2 22/6 49/15
Lisa [2] 1/20 22/24
                                media [1] 48/9
                                                                 Mr. Jamison's [1] 10/15
Lisa Spinnichio [1] 1/20
                                medication [4] 30/6 34/14 34/16
                                                                Mr. Jean-Jacques Cabou [1] 14/1
list [3] 12/14 29/7 30/25
                                 34/19
                                                                 Mr. Johnson [1] 16/25
listed [2] 48/25 53/19
                                meet [2] 30/3 30/24
                                                                 Mr. Kenneth Ravenell [1] 13/3
Listen [1] 11/22
                                member [4] 3/10 12/12 12/15
                                                                 Mr. Lawlor [35] 3/19 9/15 10/1
```

```
no [43] 1/4 4/2 5/9 7/1 7/1
            Case 1:14-cr-00186
                                  _10/12D8/dennee2t 4259/44et0029/17
                                                                  Mr. Lawlor... [32] 10/19 11/2
                                                                  offered [2] 41/17 42/10
                                  12/1 12/16 12/18 15/8 15/9
11/19 11/22 12/17 15/5 20/22
                                                                  office [3] 1/20 36/4 36/4
                                  15/23 16/1 16/2 19/16 21/1
21/1 23/16 24/5 24/14 24/22
                                  25/14 25/24 26/17 26/25 28/9
                                                                  officer [7] 1/20 22/25 47/21
25/23 26/11 27/19 29/2 29/14
                                  28/22 29/25 32/6 34/17 34/24
                                                                   47/24 48/2 48/4 48/13
 30/4 31/5 32/5 33/16 35/4 39/4
                                  36/24 37/5 41/10 41/24 42/12
                                                                  Official [2] 1/24 55/25
 41/9 42/16 43/21 49/11 49/20
                                  43/15 48/22 51/2 51/22 53/6
                                                                  officials [3] 36/8 41/21 42/8
50/20 51/23 53/5 53/11
                                                                  okay [19] 5/9 6/12 6/16 6/18
                                  55/14 55/18
                                                                   6/22 7/9 7/13 8/4 8/20 9/7
Mr. Lawlor's [1] 23/22
                                 No. [10] 2/5 3/6 16/25 20/13
Mr. Madiou [1] 2/25
                                  22/6 24/13 25/6 25/18 33/17
                                                                   10/22 11/9 12/8 24/21 27/6
Mr. Michael Lawlor [2] 15/1
                                  54/1
                                                                   27/16 28/25 28/25 50/10
19/24
                                 No. RDB-14-0186 [1] 2/5
                                                                  once [2] 18/10 51/5
Mr. Mitchell [2] 13/17 14/10
                                 Nods [1] 21/18
                                                                  one [25]
                                                                           7/1 8/2 11/24 11/24
Mr. Ravenell [1] 13/4
                                 noncitizen [1]
                                                40/19
                                                                   17/14 23/6 23/10 23/22 24/14
Mr. Solomon [3] 11/4 11/6 14/23
                                 none [2] 16/4 27/2
                                                                   25/10 26/14 28/11 29/20 36/24
                                 NORTHERN [1] 1/2
Mr. Vandy L. Jamison [1] 3/9
                                                                   40/12 40/24 40/25 42/2 42/24
Mr. Warwick [10] 2/16 23/14
                                                                   50/24 51/10 52/4 52/4 53/4 53/7
                                 not [83]
25/12 26/19 28/21 32/2 38/16
                                 note [6]
                                          24/13 25/4 34/13 49/7
                                                                  only [5] 31/7 33/7 45/15 45/25
40/15 42/20 50/25
                                  50/9 52/14
                                                                   46/23
Mr. William Bond [1] 53/12
                                 noted [12] 17/5 17/12 18/16
                                                                  operation [2] 43/5 45/24
Ms. [20] 22/24 23/1 23/18 24/19
                                  24/21 24/22 25/18 30/15 33/21
                                                                  opinion [8] 17/7 18/15 33/3
                                                                   45/7 54/10 54/12 54/19 55/8
27/5 28/12 28/17 28/24 29/11
                                  39/14 41/15 45/15 55/3
29/24 30/9 31/2 35/20 36/3
                                 notes [3] 18/1 29/6 49/12
                                                                  opinions [3] 32/17 33/19 33/19
39/12 39/20 49/21 50/15 52/15
                                                                  opportunity [3] 42/14 42/18
                                 nothing [2] 33/6 51/14
52/16
                                 notice [1] 12/18
                                                                   44/15
Ms. Essex [1] 50/15
                                 notify [1] 49/11
                                                                  opposing [1] 25/3
Ms. Lisa Spinnichio [1] 22/24
                                 noting [1]
                                            37/23
                                                                  oral [1]
                                                                           49/15
Ms. Maureen Essex [1] 49/21
                                 November [27] 2/6 3/7 3/11 3/12
                                                                  orally [1] 8/25
Ms. Spinnichio [12] 23/1 24/19
                                  5/12 7/24 8/18 9/5 13/15 14/25
                                                                  order [19] 11/1 13/15 18/24
27/5 28/12 28/17 28/24 29/11
                                  15/7 15/8 15/12 15/16 15/17
                                                                   31/16 35/19 36/3 36/14 36/14
29/24 30/9 31/2 39/12 39/20
                                  15/23 18/10 19/9 23/5 32/14
                                                                   36/19 37/1 48/18 49/9 51/3 51/5
Ms. Spinnichio's [2] 23/18 36/3
                                  32/15 34/7 43/18 43/23 48/22
                                                                   51/16 53/15 55/2 55/9 55/10
Ms. Tyson [3] 35/20 52/15 52/16
                                  51/15 53/25
                                                                  ordered [2] 46/12 54/21
much [6] 12/9 42/3 44/18 44/20
                                 November 1st [2] 3/7 3/11
                                                                  orders [2] 47/8 55/4
45/19 50/22
                                 November 2nd [3] 2/6 15/17
                                                                  organization [2] 43/6 43/19
muddled [1] 26/20
                                  43/23
                                                                  organizations [1] 42/25
multistep [1] 33/23
                                                                  organizer [1] 37/12
                                 November 30th [1] 13/15
                                                                  originally [1] 53/13
must [4] 17/3 31/22 32/10 33/10
                                 November 7th [2] 3/12 53/25
my [21] 5/15 5/18 6/9 6/10 6/10
                                November the [2] 5/12 48/22
                                                                  other [26] 6/16 6/18 6/19 7/13
6/19 6/20 6/20 6/23 9/12 9/16
                                 now [20] 2/9 5/5 5/14 6/7 7/10
                                                                   7/20 7/25 8/4 10/17 12/5 25/4
9/25 10/7 15/11 16/7 16/14 26/2
                                  11/22 18/22 19/25 21/21 24/4
                                                                   25/17 32/1 34/1 35/6 35/25 36/8
30/20 34/11 38/8 38/17
                                  24/8 24/11 24/14 24/17 29/20
                                                                   37/5 38/5 40/12 42/2 42/12
                                  32/25 34/13 37/8 42/13 53/24
                                                                   46/25 48/9 50/24 53/7 54/23
N
                                 number [5] 9/1 12/14 27/20
                                                                  others [1]
                                                                             45/2
Najah [1] 29/7
                                  40/20 50/18
                                                                  otherwise [1]
                                                                                 35/22
Najah Stewart [1] 29/7
                                              27/20
                                                                  our [3] 2/14 43/8 49/21
                                 Number 2 [1]
name [1] 26/2
                                 numerous [6]
                                              6/11 16/10 18/4
                                                                  out [7] 10/3 10/4 10/8 11/25
names [2] 29/7 29/17
                                  19/25 20/5 20/6
                                                                   12/6 34/9 45/13
nature [3] 45/10 45/15 45/25
                                                                  outlined [2] 44/24 45/5
                                 O
necessary [5] 34/3 46/6 47/23
                                                                  outside [1] 34/4
                                 oath [11] 5/12 5/14 5/21 6/1
48/3 48/14
                                                                  outstanding [1] 31/16
need [10] 3/16 21/3 27/14 32/1
                                  7/9 7/24 15/22 18/22 19/10
                                                                  over [18] 4/1 5/5 6/6 12/11
39/10 40/5 42/2 49/11 50/1
                                  39/14 43/18
                                                                   15/3 16/19 19/5 22/21 24/8 25/5
51/11
                                 objected [3] 24/12 27/23 41/15
                                                                   25/11 32/13 32/25 35/6 35/16
                                 objection [6] 15/3 23/22 24/22
needed [1] 13/6
                                                                   36/5 36/18 44/4
negative [1] 34/22
                                  27/4 39/24 41/16
                                                                  own [4] 6/20 7/3 42/19 44/15
never [5] 8/22 8/23 8/24 9/17
                                 objections [4] 25/5 25/12 25/15
11/6
                                  25/17
new [12] 14/15 14/24 27/21
                                                                  p.m [4] 2/2 15/24 22/8 55/20
                                 obstruction [6] 24/23 25/16
31/20 40/7 41/12 41/19 51/12
                                                                  page [6]
                                  31/10 37/16 38/14 39/20
                                                                           36/18 36/19 37/22 38/5
                                                                   55/7 55/7
52/2 52/7 52/9 52/9
                                 obtain [1]
                                            26/1
New Jersey [4] 52/2 52/7 52/9
                                 obtaining [1]
                                               25/20
                                                                  Page 12 [1]
                                                                               38/5
                                 obviously [2] 3/21 4/4
                                                                  Page 13 [1]
52/9
                                                                               36/18
New York [5] 27/21 31/20 40/7
                                 occasions [4] 6/11 18/4 20/5
                                                                  Page 15 [1]
                                                                               36/19
41/12 41/19
                                  20/6
                                                                  Page 60 [1] 55/7
next [4] 11/25 15/17 36/5 50/21
                                 occurs [2] 3/16 54/7
                                                                  Page 63 [1] 55/7
nice [3] 2/16 2/17 2/19
                                                                  Pages [5] 5/24 37/10 37/23 38/4
                                 October [5] 9/18 13/8 13/16
Nicholas [2] 1/18 2/22
                                  13/19 53/17
                                                                   43/16
                                 October 19th [1] 53/17
Nicholas Madiou [2] 1/18 2/22
                                                                  Pages 10 [1] 38/4
night [9] 3/5 4/4 12/19 15/24
                                 offense [9] 37/9 37/11 37/14
                                                                  Pages 5 [2] 5/24 43/16
16/24 22/8 34/20 34/21 49/15
                                  37/21 39/24 45/10 45/16 46/1
                                                                  Pages 7 [1] 37/10
```

	place [2] 12/5 47/12	pro se [1] 16/21
P 0000 1:14 or 00100		
<u> </u>	<b>Ł@ceDocumē/1t2425/24</b> Filed 04/17/	
Pages 8 [1] 37/23	Plaintiff [2] 1/3 1/13	probation [13] 1/20 22/25 26/6
paid [1] 48/25	played [2] 18/3 20/6	26/9 26/22 27/18 36/4 41/7
panel [3] 10/20 10/25 49/22	plea [59]	47/21 47/23 48/1 48/4 48/13
I	<del>-</del>	
paper [10] 3/6 3/17 16/25 20/13	plead [3] 7/1 7/11 15/18	problem [1] 8/20
22/6 24/13 25/6 25/18 33/17	pleading [9] 3/5 3/22 4/4 4/6	Procedure [8] 2/7 6/24 12/23
54/1	4/12 4/14 7/3 8/1 10/15	17/2 22/13 31/24 38/11 49/10
Paper No. 307 [1] 24/13		procedures [1] 35/8
	<del>-</del>	
Paper No. 403 [1] 33/17	22/11 44/13 44/22	proceed [6] 20/17 22/9 23/25
Paper No. 405 [1] 54/1	pled [8] 2/5 5/11 15/22 15/24	32/12 35/3 39/7
Paper No. 407 [2] 25/6 25/18	22/12 32/15 34/7 48/21	proceeded [2] 9/24 15/21
Paper No. 408 [4] 3/6 16/25	point [20] 9/24 11/19 12/7 12/8	proceeding [2] 21/2 46/10
<b>■</b> • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	<u> -</u>	
20/13 22/6	26/13 26/23 27/9 29/16 32/2	proceedings [6] 15/21 19/16
paperwork [2] 25/25 50/5	32/5 33/23 40/4 40/10 40/14	47/2 54/10 55/5 55/22
paragraph [21] 5/24 25/19 26/10	42/6 50/23 51/1 51/20 55/12	process [5] 11/5 11/14 11/16
27/10 27/22 28/3 28/6 28/13	55/16	32/13 33/23
28/14 29/4 30/5 30/14 31/9	points [4] 24/15 26/18 27/9	proffer [2] 18/24 19/8
	= .	
34/13 36/18 36/18 37/17 38/3	38/2	program [3] 46/21 47/21 48/1
38/13 48/19 49/3	Police [1] 54/18	promotion [3] 30/16 31/2 46/25
Paragraph 16 [1] 49/3	policy [1] 46/9	properties [1] 51/6
Paragraph 25 [3] 31/9 37/17	portion [1] 23/22	propriety [1] 46/4
= _ =	<b>1</b> =	
38/13	portions [2] 53/22 54/15	prosecuting [1] 43/1
Paragraph 35 [2] 25/19 26/10	position [3] 6/7 6/9 40/7	prosecution [1] 5/16
Paragraph 36 [2] 27/10 38/3	possess [1] 22/15	protect [4] 35/8 35/13 37/6
Paragraph 52 [1] 36/18	possible [1] 19/6	45/3
Paragraph 53 [2] 28/13 28/14	Post [1] 54/18	PROTECT Act [3] 35/8 35/13 37/6
Paragraph 55 [2] 27/22 28/3	postpone [1] 15/4	provide [2] 30/14 48/4
Paragraph 61 [1] 29/4	postponed [2] 8/16 14/12	provided [2] 38/23 39/19
Paragraph 62 [1] 30/5	postponement [1] 9/2	provides [2] 17/3 17/14
Paragraph 64 [1] 34/13	posttraumatic [1] 44/4	provisions [2] 35/10 35/11
Paragraph 69 [1] 30/14	posture [2] 12/3 12/11	Prozac [1] 34/15
Paragraph 6A [1] 5/24	potentially [1] 16/23	PSR [2] 25/24 29/17
Paragraph 70 [1] 36/18	practical [1] 39/6	psychological [1] 46/18
	<u> </u>	
Paragraph 9 [1] 48/19	predicate [4] 6/2 38/23 39/15	public [6] 12/6 36/8 36/9 45/3
paragraphs [1] 27/25	39/16	54/6 54/11
paralegal [2] 1/20 2/14	preferred [1] 55/4	public's [1] 54/9
part [4] 6/14 29/5 36/15 36/17	prejudice [2] 17/23 20/4	publications [1] 51/6
Part C [3] 29/5 36/15 36/17	preliminary [3] 3/3 3/4 51/3	
		pull [2] 4/21 5/2
participants [1] 37/14	preparations [1] 10/1	punish [1] 45/1
participate [3] 46/20 47/20	prepare [1] 4/1	purpose [1] 14/3
47/25	prepared [8] 3/13 9/1 9/2 11/25	purposes [3] 18/1 45/1 45/8
participation [1] 47/7	12/2 13/23 15/11 22/24	pursuant [8] 2/6 23/9 29/13
<u> </u>		
particular [2] 32/22 33/13	preparing [1] 35/19	33/24 36/13 36/15 49/9 49/17
particularly [1] 38/18	present [3] 1/19 2/22 7/21	put [1] 21/7
parties [2] 13/10 13/13	presented [1] 5/22	putting [1] 43/3
party [1] 3/15	presentence [20] 22/24 23/19	
F	<del>-</del>	Q
passed [1] 35/9	23/23 24/4 24/12 25/19 27/22	
Patrice [1] 29/9	28/7 31/8 31/9 31/12 31/16	question [2] 41/5 42/1
Patrice Fulcott [1] 29/9	34/13 35/24 36/15 36/17 37/10	questions [2] 5/15 43/13
PBJ [1] 27/18	41/15 42/4 42/9	quite [2] 18/7 47/6
pending [4] 51/8 53/24 54/5	President [1] 36/25	
54/22		R
	pressured [3] 8/1 11/21 12/7	D 3 D V [11] 45/5
per [1] 48/23	pressuring [1] 7/11	R-A-B-Y [1] 45/7
perhaps [2] 36/9 47/2	presumably [1] 49/13	Raby [1] 45/6
period [6] 19/5 36/10 36/12	presume [1] 33/22	raised [1] 24/13
45/24 46/14 47/13	pretrial [1] 15/8	range [14] 32/10 33/22 33/25
	<u>-</u>	
perjury [1] 5/17	pretty [1] 44/17	34/5 34/10 35/22 40/1 40/3 40/4
Perkins [5] 13/21 30/19 30/22	previously [3] 30/18 32/23	40/4 45/12 45/13 45/14 47/10
30/22 47/2	44/24	Ravenell [2] 13/3 13/4
Perkins Coie [4] 13/21 30/19		RDB [2] 1/4 2/5
30/22 47/2	F	RDB-14-0186 [1] 1/4
	prior [6] 3/11 10/6 10/9 11/23	
permitted [6] 7/21 13/22 14/8	52/25 53/21	RDR [3] 1/23 55/21 55/23
23/7 23/11 54/8	prison [7] 24/3 40/1 41/13 42/7	reached [1] 43/23
permitting [1] 11/1	47/13 48/16 49/2	read [1] 4/18
person [3] 16/8 41/1 48/8	Prisons [2] 46/14 52/1	ready [6] 8/17 9/3 20/6 22/9
F		23/25 32/12
personal [2] 12/16 12/17	private [4] 13/25 14/6 49/25	
personally [1] 44/13	50/19	really [4] 12/16 26/25 40/12
Peters [1] 29/20	privately [1] 13/3	41/20
phone [7] 9/11 9/12 9/16 9/22	privilege [1] 9/11	Realtime [1] 55/24
10/4 11/2 52/23	privileges [3] 9/12 9/16 16/23	reason [5] 17/4 26/20 34/11
		35/21 37/5
pick [1] 11/1	pro [1] 16/21	33/21 31/3

score [1] 24/16

```
Case 1:14-cr-00186 reasonable [1] 33/23
                                  EQuiDementsef#14257/Filed 04/17/16 [Hage 663 of 68 requires [1] 35/13 seal [6] 21/6 21/7 21/23 22/1
reasons [4] 20/12 20/15 34/5
                                  rescheduled [1] 18/10
                                                                     54/16 54/16
35/20
                                  research [1] 26/2
                                                                     sealed [6] 21/2 21/24 36/12
recall [7] 5/11 5/18 6/4 6/5
                                                                     36/16 54/20 54/20
                                  resolution [1] 51/18
                                  resources [3] 17/25 20/9 20/11 respect [15] 13/24 15/11 17/9
 6/22 7/7 7/8
                                                                    sealing [1] 36/19
                                                                    Search [1] 25/21
receive [2] 46/18 46/22
received [2] 12/18 26/3
                                   19/7 19/10 19/15 25/17 30/6
                                                                     seated [5] 2/10 3/2 39/5 53/9
           28/11 54/10
recent [2]
                                   31/12 32/18 35/11 38/7 38/18
                                                                     53/11
                                   42/7 45/13
recognize [1] 43/21
                                                                     second [15] 2/8 11/7 14/13
recognized [2] 33/3 42/16
                                  responsibility [1] 37/20
                                                                     23/12 25/5 25/11 26/8 27/17
recommend [6] 46/18 46/20 46/22 restricting [1] 55/4
                                                                     33/19 35/24 37/25 40/5 48/24
                                                                     52/4 53/4
51/25 52/3 52/6
                                  result [1] 33/3
record [24] 2/11 3/8 3/14 8/21
                                  results [1] 39/24
                                                                     secondarily [2] 19/7 31/12
 10/13 12/25 16/4 18/1 18/3 19/4
                                                                    Secondly [1] 47/25
section [10] 22/18 24/24 31/10
                                  retain [4] 9/19 13/25 14/5
 19/14 20/12 20/16 21/5 21/19
                                   49/25
 26/20 30/13 30/22 32/7 40/17
                                  retained [1] 13/3
                                                                     31/23 33/13 33/13 36/10 38/12
50/8 53/22 54/15 55/22
                                                                     45/9 49/17
                                  retainment [1] 10/8
records [2] 22/7 54/19
                                                                    Section 1956 [1] 22/18
                                  reveal [1] 25/21
reference [6] 27/23 28/1 28/23
                                  review [6] 25/21 33/11 36/8
                                                                    Section 3006A [1] 49/17
38/17 38/24 41/16
                                   36/24 55/1 55/4
                                                                    Section 3553 [2] 33/13 45/9
                                                                    Section 3C1.1 [2] 24/24 31/10
referenced [2] 3/24 33/16
                                  reviewed [5] 22/23 23/18 24/4
referring [1] 28/7
                                   24/9 36/20
                                                                    Section 6A1.3 [2] 31/23 38/12
reflect [3] 8/21 21/19 49/12
                                                                    sections [2] 32/22 33/1
                                  revised [1] 36/14
reflected [5] 5/22 13/10 13/15
                                  RICHARD [4] 1/5 1/10 2/5 46/13
                                                                    Security [1] 40/22
37/10 38/3
                                  RICHARD BYRD [3] 1/5 2/5 46/13
                                                                     see [11] 2/16 2/17 2/19 3/4
reflecting [1] 31/13
                                  right [30] 4/16 5/9 6/7 6/12
                                                                     3/22 12/3 12/3 26/19 36/25
reflects [2] 16/5 31/16
                                   6/16 7/13 8/1 9/10 12/9 20/21
                                                                     41/22 51/9
regard [3] 38/8 49/13 49/20
                                   21/25 24/11 25/15 26/7 26/19
                                                                    seek [2] 19/25 55/1
Registered [1] 55/24
                                   27/3 28/6 29/18 29/18 34/18
                                                                    seeking [10] 4/23 4/25 5/4 5/7
rehabilitate [1] 45/4
                                   35/2 37/4 41/2 41/25 44/19
                                                                     7/14 14/3 16/20 17/9 20/10
related [3] 28/5 28/19 28/19
                                   50/10 52/3 52/6 53/7 54/9
                                                                     30/19
relates [1] 38/13
                                  road [1] 41/22
                                                                     seen [2] 24/7 38/4
relating [1] 47/21
                                                                    selected [1] 10/17
                                  rotation [1] 20/2
release [4] 47/12 47/13 47/15
                                  Rule [15] 2/7 6/23 12/22 15/19
                                                                     self [3] 30/16 31/1 43/19
48/15
                                   15/20 17/2 18/18 22/12 23/9
                                                                     self-employed [2] 30/16 31/1
released [3] 9/12 42/7 48/16
                                   31/23 32/8 38/11 38/22 49/5
                                                                    self-explanatory [1] 43/19
                                                                    Senate [1] 36/25
remain [5] 27/12 27/14 44/22
                                   49/9
 54/16 54/20
                                  Rule 11 [12] 2/7 6/23 12/22
                                                                    sentence [34] 22/13 22/14 22/19
remained [1] 15/15
                                   15/19 15/20 17/2 18/18 22/12
                                                                     22/22 23/6 23/10 23/20 33/11
remanded [1] 46/13
                                   23/9 32/8 38/22 49/5
                                                                     33/15 34/2 34/4 34/8 34/12
remarks [1] 42/17
                                                                     35/15 35/21 38/7 40/2 41/13
                                  Rule 32 [2] 31/23 38/11
render [1] 26/18
                                  Rule 4 [1] 49/9
                                                                     41/20 43/7 43/9 43/11 44/1
rendered [2] 32/23 33/5
                                  ruled [2] 8/10 20/21
                                                                     44/10 44/12 44/24 45/14 46/4
renewed [1] 54/2
                                  Rules [8] 2/7 6/24 12/22 17/2
                                                                     46/15 47/9 47/11 49/4 49/5 49/6
renumbered [1] 27/25
                                   22/13 31/23 38/11 49/9
                                                                     sentences [2] 35/12 46/2
repeatedly [2] 18/18 53/22
                                  ruling [1] 22/1
                                                                     sentencing [21] 1/12 2/9 20/17
report [26] 22/24 23/4 23/19
                                  rulings [2] 14/20 38/17
                                                                     22/10 24/1 24/2 32/18 32/21
23/23 24/5 24/12 25/13 25/19
                                  run [1] 43/11
                                                                     33/4 33/7 34/4 35/3 35/16 35/25
27/13 27/14 27/19 27/22 28/7
                                                                     36/5 36/23 45/1 46/6 46/10 47/4
                                  running [1] 2/18
 31/8 31/10 31/13 31/16 34/14
                                                                     54/5
 35/24 36/15 36/17 37/10 41/7
                                                                     Sentencing Commission [1] 35/25
                                                                     September [7] 9/14 9/18 14/16 15/3 18/7 18/9 40/24
 41/15 42/5 42/9
                                  S-A [1] 29/21
                                  S-A-F-I-Y-A [1] 29/22
Reported [1] 1/22
Reporter [4] 1/24 55/24 55/24
                                  Safiya [1] 29/21
                                                                    September 15th [1] 15/3
 55/25
                                  said [15] 5/13 5/20 7/6 8/18
                                                                    September 31st [1] 9/14
represent [7] 10/20 14/3 14/17
                                   11/6 12/8 21/20 22/7 26/2 27/23
                                                                    serious [1] 42/24
15/2 49/18 49/19 50/19
                                   33/18 37/8 38/9 43/22 44/9
                                                                    served [5] 22/20 22/21 44/7
representation [4] 3/12 10/15
                                  same [3] 10/11 26/24 41/1
                                                                     44/9 46/16
 38/1 49/14
                                  sat [1] 15/10
                                                                     services [1] 14/11
representations [2] 49/21 50/6
Representatives [1] 37/1
                                  satisfactorily [2] 47/20 47/25 satisfied [2] 14/11 35/2
                                                                    set [3] 15/15 20/12 43/16
                                                                     setting [1] 10/16
                                  satisfy [2] 19/1 22/2
represented [1] 13/2
                                                                    seven [1]
                                                                               45/9
representing [2] 13/22 18/21
                                  Saunders [1] 29/9
                                                                    several [2] 10/3 16/10
request [11] 13/14 13/19 14/7
                                  saw [3] 3/25 4/5 4/12
                                                                    severely [1] 12/7
14/16 14/18 14/22 29/11 29/14
                                  say [3] 3/21 23/3 28/4
                                                                    shall [8] 35/21 47/18 47/20
                                  saying [6] 4/13 9/21 16/9 20/5
30/7 43/9 54/2
                                                                     47/25 48/4 48/6 48/12 54/20
requested [2] 48/5 54/4
                                   51/14 51/18
                                                                     she [7] 25/25 25/25 28/19 28/20
require [1] 14/4
                                  says [1] 30/14
                                                                     28/22 30/1 30/4
required [4] 6/2 18/23 35/8
                                  scheduled [8] 3/11 13/11 13/20
                                                                                 9/20 25/1
                                                                     shortly [2]
 37/7
                                   14/15 14/25 15/7 18/8 32/15
                                                                     should [13] 7/21 16/21 17/4
```

requirement [1]

38/9

```
Case 1:14-cr-00186
should... [10] 21/6 27/12 28/4
                                  _03/100d9/12n@27/14239/23i|@b/094/17
                                                                   ten Palge 15/6-10f46/814 47/16
                                  31/19 32/19 32/20 33/14 33/20
                                                                   ten years [1] 47/14
28/13 29/10 33/22 34/5 44/25
                                  35/14 42/9 45/5 45/6 45/9 45/22
                                                                   term [2] 47/15 48/16
 49/7 49/12
                                   49/17 55/2
                                                                   terms [26] 12/11 14/20 19/2
show [4] 17/3 26/2 30/19 30/24
                                 statin' [1] 11/22
                                                                    19/4 19/13 19/18 20/3 22/5 24/1
showed [3] 8/6 8/7 11/11
                                 status [2] 10/4 26/22
                                                                    25/2 25/6 26/25 27/20 29/5
                                 stay [2] 14/4 52/14
showing [1] 10/10
                                                                    30/13 30/20 31/21 32/4 34/6
sic [1]
        16/25
                                                                    39/1 42/25 43/19 45/21 45/23
                                 stayed [1] 51/8
signed [4] 5/22 5/25 51/3 55/9
                                 stays [1] 42/5
                                                                    48/9 54/14
significance [1] 26/25
                                 stenographic [1] 55/21
                                                                   Terrence [1] 29/20
                                                                   Terrence Peters [1] 29/20
significant [3] 43/4 45/23 47/6
                                 step [1] 37/8
                                 steps [2] 19/15 45/5
significantly [1] 18/17
                                                                   testified [1] 51/14
                                 Stewart [2] 29/7 29/7
                                                                   testing [2] 47/23 48/2
similarly [2] 46/3 54/24
simple [1] 16/24
                                 still [7] 26/17 26/18 32/9
                                                                   Texas [1] 43/3
since [9] 3/23 4/25 5/7 6/9
                                  33/10 37/6 37/7 42/11
                                                                   than [7] 18/3 19/16 23/7 23/10
22/20 34/7 44/7 46/17 53/21
                                 stipulated [1] 43/7
                                                                    34/3 46/5 46/25
sir [7] 5/3 21/21 34/19 44/16
                                 stop [1] 20/2
                                                                   thank [15] 2/10 12/9 23/4 29/3
44/22 51/23 53/10
                                 Street [1] 1/24
                                                                    29/15 29/23 31/6 39/5 42/3
                                 stress [1] 44/4
sit [1] 21/21
                                                                    42/22 43/15 44/19 50/22 51/22
situated [1] 46/3
                                 stricken [1] 37/25
                                                                    55/14
situation [1] 8/10
                                 strike [1] 39/18
                                                                   that [304]
                                                                   that's [21] 4/12 8/2 9/5 16/3
six [4] 3/13 3/23 17/13 17/24
                                 subject [2] 33/11 36/8
sixth [1] 53/24
                                                                    21/7 26/21 27/17 34/6 34/10
                                 submission [3] 22/6 33/16 49/14
sleep [1] 30/7
                                 submissions [3] 16/21 54/13
                                                                    34/12 37/17 43/15 44/19 47/10
sleep apnea [1] 30/7
                                  54/23
                                                                    49/6 49/25 50/14 50/19 51/7
so [59]
                                  submit [3] 36/4 51/5 52/22
                                                                    53/1 53/3
social [1] 48/9
                                  submitted [2] 25/6 49/15
                                                                   the 2nd [1] 15/24
Solomon [6] 11/4 11/6 14/13
                                 submitting [1] 16/21
                                                                   their [3] 14/2 14/11 47/3
14/23 14/23 19/22
                                                                   them [11] 11/5 14/4 14/8 19/21
                                 substance [1] 47/22
some [14] 4/1 8/16 9/11 10/16
                                 substantial [1] 48/18
                                                                    24/14 25/10 30/1 30/2 33/10
22/21 24/6 26/22 27/23 34/14
                                 such [3] 25/21 26/2 26/3
                                                                    33/10 43/14
36/7 40/14 44/9 46/22 53/13
                                 sufficient [3] 34/3 43/9 46/5
                                                                   themselves [1] 2/11
somebody [1] 40/19
someone [3] 7/10 26/23 50/12
                                 suggested [2] 14/17 27/24
                                                                   then [32] 5/21 10/25 13/16 14/9
                                                                    14/12 14/15 14/17 14/22 15/1
                                 suggestion [1] 47/1
sometime [2]
            9/18 26/23
                                  summarize [1] 12/24
                                                                    15/5 16/25 18/5 23/10 24/21
Sooner [1] 20/2
                                  summarized [1] 37/22
                                                                    25/20 28/13 28/23 29/4 29/6
sorry [3] 7/17 25/8 34/25
                                 Sun [1] 55/6
                                                                    30/5 30/11 31/12 33/18 34/1
                                 superseding [4] 2/8 23/12 35/24
sort [1] 12/24
                                                                    36/23 37/19 40/5 42/16 42/18
sought [6] 3/10 8/25 9/2 11/10
                                  48/24
                                                                    50/3 50/11 54/3
18/6 53/22
                                 supervised [3] 47/12 47/15
                                                                   there [52] 3/4 4/2 8/4 13/5
source [2] 30/20 30/25
                                                                    13/8 13/11 13/13 13/17 14/9
                                  48/15
sources [1] 45/20
                                  supervision [1] 47/17
                                                                    14/19 14/20 15/23 15/25 15/25
speak [7] 4/22 5/3 8/7 9/23
                                  support [5] 19/9 41/17 42/10
                                                                    16/2 17/12 17/18 19/13 23/19
42/14 42/19 44/15
                                  43/2 52/23
                                                                    24/6 24/14 24/15 25/4 26/24
special [2] 48/23 48/25
                                  suppose [1] 52/22
                                                                    27/6 27/23 28/1 30/5 30/21
specifically [12] 5/13 6/24
                                 supposed [3] 11/13 11/16 24/6
                                                                    31/16 32/1 32/17 33/13 33/18
16/6 17/3 22/14 33/21 34/15
                                                                    35/10 36/19 37/11 37/16
                                 supposedly [1] 11/17
35/13 40/18 45/10 45/11 53/18
                                 Supreme [7] 18/19 32/17 32/20
                                                                    38/9 38/10 40/9 41/12 41/23
spent [1] 44/12
                                  33/8 33/18 33/19 33/21
                                                                    42/10 42/12 48/23 50/23 50/25
Spinnichio [14] 1/20 22/24 23/1
                                                                    51/12 52/12 55/12
                                 Supreme Court [7] 18/19 32/17
 24/19 27/5 28/12 28/17 28/24
                                                                   there's [16] 5/9 7/25 10/25
                                  32/20 33/8 33/18 33/19 33/21
 29/11 29/24 30/9 31/2 39/12
                                  sure [8] 3/22 9/10 21/1 30/4
                                                                    12/1 16/4 21/12 29/6 33/6 33/24
 39/20
                                  38/25 49/12 50/1 52/19
                                                                    34/1 37/5 38/2 38/24 48/24
Spinnichio's [2] 23/18 36/3
                                  surprised [1] 3/22
                                                                    50/24 51/16
                                 surprises [1] 23/19
spoke [2] 10/6 11/12
                                                                   therefore [2] 8/10 11/24
                                                                   these [8] 19/15 27/25 36/4 36/7
Stacie [1] 29/7
                                 sustain [1] 27/4
Stacie Stewart [1] 29/7
                                                                    45/5 45/8 47/2 54/4
                                 sustained [2] 39/23 39/24
stand [5] 4/16 8/20 22/11 44/13 system [3] 2/18 3/6 26/9
                                                                   they [16] 6/1 14/7 29/13 30/21
53/8
                                                                    31/24 33/7 35/8 36/21 36/22
standard [2] 36/19 47/17
standing [2] 36/14 44/22
                                                                    36/22 36/22 40/19 40/20 48/15
                                 table [2] 2/14 15/10
                                                                    50/12 54/24
stands [1] 55/19
                                 tactics [1] 18/6
                                                                   they're [1]
                                                                               38/7
start [2] 3/13 9/14
                                 take [6] 11/16 12/7 21/14 33/10
                                                                   thing [1]
                                                                             52/17
starting [1] 33/23
                                  34/16 37/18
                                                                   things [1] 4/1
state [2] 26/9 54/18
                                 taken [1] 19/15
                                                                   think [22] 3/3 7/8 7/8 8/13
stated [2] 6/1 12/15
                                 taking [3] 19/5 30/6 34/14
                                                                    9/15 21/5 21/6 27/23 30/1 30/18
statement [10] 5/21 7/23 18/23
                                 talk [2] 20/22 49/22
                                                                    31/7 34/11 39/10 43/9 43/18
19/10 35/20 38/22 43/16 44/14
                                 talked [1] 25/24
                                                                    47/9 50/5 51/7 51/11 51/18
44/16 44/17
                                 Taylor [1] 29/8
                                                                    54/11 55/11
                                                                   third [7] 8/15 10/20 15/5 18/11
statements [1] 5/17
                                  teenager [1] 40/23
                                 telephone [1] 48/8
states [27] 1/1 1/3 1/15 2/4
                                                                    18/11 48/4 54/1
```

2/13 13/24 17/5 17/11 18/13

tell [1]

20/19

_		33/20 45/6 45/22 54/11 54/18
T Coco 1:14 or 00106	O Document 425 Filed 04/17	155/20 45/0 45/22 54/11 54/10
this [102]	U-B-A-K-A-N-M-A [1] 17/6	very [9] 12/9 15/19 18/23 42/3
thorough [1] 15/19	U.S [3] 1/20 1/20 40/19	42/24 44/19 45/19 48/18 50/22
those [17] 14/1 14/5 16/22	U.S. [9] 18/20 22/25 35/9 35/16	via [1] 48/8
18/15 19/10 20/12 24/7 25/7	36/4 36/5 36/23 40/25 42/14	victim [1] 48/7
25/9 29/10 29/24 30/4 33/1	U.S. Attorney [1] 42/14	view [7] 32/2 32/5 40/10 51/1
35/18 45/18 54/17 55/4	U.S. Congress [1] 35/9	51/20 55/13 55/16
thought [1] 8/7	U.S. Marshals [1] 40/25	Virginia [1] 54/17
threaten [1] 6/25	U.S. Probation [2] 22/25 36/4	visa [1] 31/15
three [4] 17/18 19/16 44/10	U.S. Sentencing [1] 36/23	vocational [1] 46/23
47/14	U.S. Sentencing Commission [2]	voice [1] 5/6
through [2] 15/18 19/16	35/16 36/5	voluntary [2] 17/15 19/3
		VOIUNCALY [2] 17/13 19/3
throughout [1] 19/15	Ubakanma [1] 17/6	₩
Thursday [1] 1/8	ultimately [3] 13/5 14/7 45/21	
thus [1] 44/12	uncertified [1] 16/11	W-A-R-T-H-E-N [1] 29/21
time [26] 4/3 4/12 4/19 5/23	under [43] 5/12 5/14 6/1 6/23	wages [1] 49/2
9/12 10/6 10/11 10/17 13/6	7/9 7/24 12/22 13/23 15/20	wait [1] 51/11
14/15 18/11 22/20 22/23 23/5	15/22 17/8 18/22 19/2 19/10	waived [1] 49/4
26/23 34/18 36/10 36/12 40/14	21/6 21/7 21/23 21/25 22/2	waiving [1] 16/23
42/7 44/7 44/11 45/24 46/16	22/12 24/23 26/1 30/23 31/9	want [15] 6/8 12/6 14/17 20/22
48/21 55/15	31/10 31/22 32/10 33/8 38/10	25/11 28/23 30/24 41/6 41/9
times [4] 8/16 9/1 10/3 19/25	38/21 39/14 43/18 44/21 44/23	41/18 41/23 43/24 49/7 49/16
Title [1] 33/14	45/9 46/2 46/6 46/7 46/7 49/5	52/13
Title 18 [1] 33/14	54/15 54/16 54/17	wanted [4] 15/18 16/1 36/22
today [13] 3/25 4/5 10/12 11/22	understand [6] 5/14 7/15 7/18	41/3
		1 · -
19/12 20/14 22/4 23/20 25/25	9/7 37/2 41/8	wanting [1] 6/13
27/1 34/16 49/16 49/21	understanding [2] 14/4 43/25	wants [2] 39/8 50/6
today's [1] 4/2	understands [1] 49/23	Warthen [1] 29/21
together [1] 43/4	understood [1] 5/20	Warwick [12] 1/14 2/13 2/16
told [6] 10/3 11/3 16/6 16/8	undertook [2] 34/6 34/12	23/14 25/12 26/19 28/21 32/2
16/18 16/19	UNITED [26] 1/1 1/3 1/15 2/4	38/16 40/15 42/20 50/25
tomorrow [1] 49/23	2/13 13/24 17/5 17/11 18/13	was [96]
too [1] 28/10	18/14 19/2 22/18 30/23 31/19	Washington [4] 35/17 36/5 36/24
took [5] 5/21 11/3 12/5 20/20	31/19 32/19 32/20 33/14 33/20	54/18
34/19	35/14 45/5 45/6 45/9 45/22	wasn't [1] 10/4
torturous [1] 42/23	49/17 55/2	waste [3] 17/25 20/9 20/11
total [13] 11/15 22/18 24/2	United States [18] 2/4 2/13	way [6] 12/1 22/1 38/6 40/12
34/8 37/9 37/14 37/20 38/2	13/24 17/5 17/11 18/13 18/14	42/2 50/17
39/24 46/4 46/15 47/10 47/15	19/2 30/23 31/19 31/19 32/20	Wayne [1] 29/9
trafficking [1] 47/5	33/20 35/14 45/5 45/6 45/22	Wayne Chang [1] 29/9
training [1] 46/23	55/2	we [31] 2/8 3/3 3/4 3/23 8/14
transcript [1] 55/21	United States Code [4] 22/18	9/5 13/22 13/23 15/8 20/17 21/3
treat [2] 12/19 27/3	33/14 45/9 49/17	21/7 21/8 22/9 23/21 23/25 25/3
treated [4] 12/21 20/13 22/4	Unjust [1] 3/8	30/11 30/25 31/7 32/1 32/9
22/4	unreasonableness [1] 33/12	32/12 40/18 40/21 40/22 44/2
treating [4] 12/12 12/18 12/20	unseal [1] 53/22	45/19 50/1 50/1 50/16
17/1	unsealed [1] 37/5	we'll [9] 3/3 10/16 25/3 25/5
treatment [4] 44/5 46/19 47/21	unsealing [1] 54/2	27/20 30/11 31/21 51/9 52/19
48/1	until [6] 12/18 13/14 14/12	we're [4] 11/25 25/16 33/25
trial [24] 3/11 3/24 8/15 8/17	15/24 21/8 51/11	52/16 52/16 53/25
9/3 11/25 12/1 13/11 13/14	up [12] 4/22 5/3 5/6 8/6 8/7	We've [1] 43/2
13/18 13/19 14/12 14/15 14/24	10/10 11/1 11/11 21/8 21/12	week [3] 10/9 11/25 18/9
15/4 15/7 15/10 15/12 15/15	30/18 52/16	weeks [1] 10/9
18/6 18/9 19/6 20/6 32/15	upheld [2] 18/16 32/20	weighed [1] 54/14
tried [2] 6/25 10/2	upon [11] 10/7 12/16 12/17	well [20] 5/9 6/24 8/13 11/3
trifling [1] 19/4	15/14 24/24 34/22 38/1 44/1	12/9 16/4 16/9 17/9 22/21 25/10
truthful [1] 51/14	46/3 47/13 49/14	26/7 29/1 31/4 33/15 36/21
try [4] 3/13 9/19 9/24 30/24	upward [4] 24/23 37/12 38/14	40/24 44/4 46/7 50/23 52/13
trying [2] 47/2 48/9	39/18	well-established [1] 17/9
turned [1] 11/15	us [1] 6/5	went [1] 15/18
turns [1] 45/13	used [3] 5/16 10/11 10/12	were [28] 3/23 5/12 6/1 7/6 7/9
two [24] 10/9 16/20 17/16 18/9	Usually [1] 2/17	7/25 9/5 13/2 13/23 14/5 14/11
19/5 22/21 23/12 24/13 24/15	v	14/20 15/19 16/22 19/20 24/6
24/22 30/12 31/9 31/24 32/17		24/15 25/6 30/19 30/21 33/4
32/22 33/1 33/18 33/19 37/16	Vandy [2] 3/9 20/13	37/12 37/23 39/15 45/5 45/21
37/19 38/14 39/18 40/23 44/9	Vandy Jamison [1] 20/13	48/10 48/13
two-count [1] 23/12	verbal [1] 22/4	what [17] 5/10 6/12 6/18 7/15
two-level [6] 24/22 31/9 37/16	verbally [2] 11/21 22/5	7/18 7/20 8/4 10/3 10/5 16/25
37/19 38/14 39/18	verify [1] 3/16	18/21 28/4 40/17 42/4 50/8
Tyson [3] 35/20 52/15 52/16	versus [14] 2/4 13/24 17/6	51/17 54/7
	17/11 18/14 19/2 30/23 32/19	what's [1] 26/25

```
ase 1·14-cr-00186
whatever [2] 11/16 41/18
whatsoever [1] 27/2
when [21] 5/11 10/7 11/3 15/24
16/22 18/2 18/8 30/18 32/15
 33/11 33/15 34/18 35/11 37/23
 40/18 40/23 42/7 47/2 48/15
 51/14 51/19
where [5] 9/5 9/9 18/17 28/1
31/7
whether [16] 15/11 17/14 17/16
17/18 17/20 17/22 17/22 17/24
19/13 19/18 20/3 20/8 27/21
27/25 30/20 46/11
which [40] 5/22 5/23 5/25 7/23
10/16 12/7 12/8 12/16 13/6
 14/20 16/25 18/8 22/6 22/19
26/18 26/22 28/7 30/13 32/23
33/24 33/25 34/2 35/9 35/19
35/21 36/11 36/15 37/18 43/16
 43/17 45/13 45/20 46/21 47/22
 48/2 48/20 50/18 52/4 52/24
55/3
while [3] 33/9 46/19 46/23
who [9] 3/10 10/18 10/20 10/24
11/8 20/10 40/19 48/10 50/3
who's [3] 18/5 22/25 50/15
whole [2] 2/18 2/18
whom [1] 11/10
whose [1] 12/13
why [4] 5/2 17/4 20/19 20/19
will [48] 3/21 6/20 6/21 8/21
12/21 17/22 17/24 20/4 20/8
20/17 21/22 21/22 22/19 23/20
 25/1 27/5 27/9 28/15 28/17 29/1
29/13 30/9 31/4 31/24 31/24
36/19 37/5 39/19 39/23 39/24
 41/5 43/10 44/5 48/22 48/25
 49/1 50/9 50/12 50/18 50/20
51/5 52/20 53/1 53/2 53/8 53/9
 54/16 55/10
William [6] 13/9 13/9 19/19
19/20 53/12 53/18
William Bond [1]
                 53/18
William Brennan [2] 13/9 19/19
William Mitchell [2] 13/9 19/20
wind [1] 52/16
wish [1] 44/14
wished [1] 16/17
withdraw [22] 4/24 5/10 6/8
6/10 6/13 7/14 7/22 12/21 12/23
 14/8 16/1 16/14 17/1 17/10
18/16 20/14 22/3 22/5 23/7
23/11 50/11 52/23
withdrawal [8] 17/4 17/19 17/22
17/22 17/24 19/14 20/4 20/8
withdrawing [1] 6/19
withdrew [3] 14/7 14/18 30/22
within [4] 34/10 35/15 49/8
50/21
without [4] 20/4 29/16 37/1
50/12
witness [1] 48/7
witnesses [2] 18/9 48/10
won't [1] 23/19
work [1] 11/14
works [2] 34/9 51/9
worth [1] 43/4
would [18] 2/11 3/12 8/18 9/8
 14/4 23/7 23/11 23/23 24/13
26/17 26/18 37/18 44/16 50/3
```

**№©**teD**®**oum**e**/ft **42**5 8 Filed 04/17/17 Page 68 of 68 wrong [1] 28/9 wrote [2] 9/15 16/7 Yeah [1] 8/24 year [3] 2/6 34/8 35/10 years [21] 16/20 19/5 22/14 22/17 22/19 22/22 24/2 30/16 31/2 32/25 37/23 38/7 40/3 43/9 43/11 44/10 44/10 46/4 47/14 47/14 47/16 yes [33] 2/16 4/20 5/19 6/5 6/15 6/17 7/6 8/2 21/10 23/17 24/8 24/10 24/18 24/20 26/12 27/7 28/18 29/12 30/8 30/10 30/17 31/3 35/5 37/3 39/22 40/15 40/16 41/6 44/3 51/4 51/24 52/13 52/18 yesterday [1] 4/1 yet [3] 15/4 24/7 50/7 York [5] 27/21 31/20 40/7 41/12 41/19 you [213] 9/1 16/22 you'd [2] you'll [9] 4/16 21/13 21/21 22/11 30/3 39/20 42/16 42/18 44/13 you're [9] 2/17 7/22 18/21 21/11 37/17 37/19 41/18 44/11 48/16 you've [12] 4/18 7/10 7/25 19/15 19/18 22/21 24/9 34/14 38/17 41/15 41/15 48/17 your [142] Your Honor [35] 2/21 2/23 3/20 3/22 3/24 4/8 4/10 5/8 8/5 8/9 9/8 9/12 9/12 10/12 16/3 21/6 23/2 23/15 25/7 26/5 26/5 28/3 28/10 29/3 29/15 29/16 29/23 32/3 42/22 43/25 44/18 50/8 52/10 52/21 53/3 yourself [1] 14/18 Yvonne [1] 29/8 Yvonne Taylor [1] 29/8 zero [2] 27/4 27/5 Zweizig [3] 1/23 55/21 55/23

50/4 52/7 52/24 53/19